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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, during this sometimes chaotic season, remind our lawmakers anew that You will never leave or forsake us. Give them the wisdom to pray as if work had nothing to do with results and then to work as if prayer did not matter. As our Senators surrender life's crushing blows to Your mercy, transform their setbacks into stepping stones to abundant faith, hope, and joy. Use our lawmakers this day for Your glory.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the past year, there has been a rising tide of violence and discrimination against Asian Americans, from shouted insults and racial slurs to outright physical assaults.

I have attended a whole bunch of rallies against Asian-American violence over the past few weeks. You would be heartsick—heartsick—to hear the stories shared, the fear in the voices of Asian-American citizens, and to listen to the way they change their daily lives to avoid the subway or stay indoors most of the day.

The surge in anti-Asian violence is revolting and, sadly, contains the echoes of dark chapters in our history when Asian Americans were subject to widespread bigotry and discrimination.

The poison of racism has always existed in America, but unfortunately, over the past 4 years, it seems to have found new life. There is no question that the former President fanned the flames of racial bias in our country and too often encouraged—let alone discouraged—the vicious slander that connected COVID-19 to the people of Asian descent.

Every day in America, in this 21st-century America, Asian Americans fear they might be insulted, assaulted, spat

upon, or even worse. As Americans, we must stand up and do something about it. The foundation of our pluralistic society is that an attack on one group is an attack on all of us. So tomorrow the Senate will vote on whether to take up and debate Senator HIRONO's anti-Asian hate crimes bill, sponsored by Representative MENG in the House. This bill is as unobjectionable as it could be. It would designate a point person at the Justice Department to identify hate crimes towards Asian Americans related to COVID-19, telling Federal law enforcement to make these hate crimes a top priority during the pandemic.

This isn't some kind of "gotcha" legislation. It is not some complex new program or appropriation. This is as straightforward as it gets. This is legislation our times demand.

Of course, we are open to strengthening the bill. I understand that there is an effort underway to add bipartisan legislation called the No Hate Act—sponsored by Senators BLUMENTHAL and MORAN, one Democrat and one Republican—as an amendment, and I fully support that effort.

The Blumenthal-Moran bill would provide resources to State and local law enforcement to improve hate crimes reporting, increase training, while also improving education to root out the bias that fuels these despicable, despicable acts. That makes perfect sense as a bipartisan amendment to Senator HIRONO's legislation, and I believe that combating hate against the Asian-American community should be thoroughly, if not unanimously, bipartisan.

Congress can send a strong signal in one loud, clear voice that these kinds of hate crimes will not be tolerated. The way to do it is for 60 Senators to vote to proceed to the bill tomorrow. I sure hope it will be more than 60. Then it is my intention to make the first amendment to the bill the bipartisan No Hate Act, but in order to offer the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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amendment, the Senate must vote to proceed with debate on the bill.

President Biden has called on Congress to swiftly pass Senator HIRONO's legislation and get it to his desk for signature as soon as possible. There is no good reason the Senate can't complete the task this week.

NOMINATION OF POLLY ELLEN TROTTERBERG

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on another matter, beyond Senator HIRONO's legislation, the Senate is also focused this week on confirming an impressive slate of nominees to the Biden administration.

I am especially pleased that in a few hours, the Senate will vote to confirm Polly Trottenberg to serve as Deputy Secretary of Transportation. This is great news for New York and great news for the country.

Her credentials are beyond doubt. For the last 7 years, she has served as New York City's commissioner of transportation, managing a transportation system that helps tens of millions of people get to and from work, connects businesses to customers, and brings life to one of America's largest and most visited cities every single day.

Before that, Polly served in the Department of Transportation under President Obama, advising policymakers and working with stakeholders across the country on everything from high-speed rail to roads, highways, and bridges.

Of course, her nomination is especially meaningful to me. Polly served for nearly a decade as my legislative director and transportation adviser. She knows the needs of the country, and she knows the needs of New York. And a pet project so important to the New York Gateway will be well served in her capable hands. We will get this done.

Take it from me: Polly has smarts, she has savvy, and she has moxie. She knows how to work with people of all backgrounds to get things done for the American people. And there isn't a moment to lose. As we work to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and bring our economy fully back online, we must look ahead to tackle the challenges of our time, and on top of the list is finally getting serious about addressing our Nation's crumbling infrastructure—a topic that Ms. Trottenberg is very familiar with.

For New York, as I mentioned, this means continuing to move the ball forward on projects like Gateway, rebuilding the two rail tunnels under the Hudson—perhaps the most important transportation infrastructure priority in the entire Nation and something I have spoken to Ms. Trottenberg and Secretary Buttigieg and President Biden about regularly.

But our infrastructure woes extend to every city and every State in the country. Our roads, bridges, highways,

airports, public transit, housing, and the electric grid are all in need of an overhaul. So, too, does our country need to invest in the infrastructure of the 21st century—broadband internet access, 5G, electric vehicles. America cannot compete in this century if our infrastructure is stuck in the last century.

That is why, in addition to confirming important nominees like Ms. Trottenberg, the Senate will continue to work with the Biden administration on a comprehensive infrastructure and jobs bill. If there is an issue that ought to unite Democrats and Republicans, it is putting people to work to update our Nation's infrastructure.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as we speak, for the second time this year, a fallen officer of the U.S. Capitol Police lies in honor under the Capitol dome.

This morning, Officer Billy Evans was welcomed here for a final time by grieving comrades and a Senate family that is immensely grateful for his life, his friendship, and his ultimate sacrifice.

Officer Evans died defending the Capitol, its institutions, and the thousands of people who come here to do the people's business. The circumstances of his killing remind us of the dangers that USCP officers swear, train, and prepare to meet whenever they might arise.

Yet, to that serious task, to his intense responsibilities, Officer Evans brought a spirit and strength of character that leaves us all at the Capitol with memories of kindness and friendship.

Today, I know our colleagues are holding Officer Evans and his family he leaves behind close in our thoughts and our prayers. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, just moments ago, new reporting suggests the Biden administration plans to turn

tail and abandon the fight in Afghanistan.

Precipitously withdrawing U.S. forces from Afghanistan is a grave mistake. It is a retreat in the face of an enemy that has not yet been vanquished and abdication of American leadership.

Leaders in both parties, including me, offered criticism when the prior administration floated the concept of a reckless withdrawal from Syria and Afghanistan. Those same voices in both parties should be equally concerned about the Biden administration's announcement today. A reckless pullback like this would abandon our Afghan, regional, and our NATO partners in a shared fight against terrorists that we have not yet won. It will also specifically abandon the women of Afghanistan, whose individual freedoms and human rights will be imperiled.

It did not have to unfold like this. Today in Afghanistan the fighting is borne almost exclusively by our local partners. We have successfully solicited more buy-in and more support from foreign partners as well. Our NATO allies have particularly been begging—begging—the United States to stay by their side. As a result, there was broad political support for a sustainable and residual presence to backstop the progress we have made.

In 2019, Republicans and Democrats joined hands to support an amendment I authored that cautioned against precipitous retreats from Afghanistan and Syria. A supermajority of Senators voted for it. A supermajority of Senators voted for it.

That amendment called upon the administration—the previous one—“to certify whether conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any further significant withdrawal of United States forces from [Syria or Afghanistan].”

Can President Biden certify that right now? We have seen this movie before, multiple times. Ten years ago, when President Obama let politics dictate the terms of our involvement in Iraq, those failed decisions invited the rise of ISIS.

It was our hasty abandonment of Afghanistan in the 1990s that allowed the Taliban to grab power in a bloody civil war and create the safe haven for terrorism that led to September the 11th, 2001.

Conflicts do not simply end. They are won or they are lost. America and American administrations must be in the business of winning. Al-Qaida and other radical Islamist terrorists have not yet been defeated.

There is no reason to believe the Taliban will abandon al-Qaida if we leave. We know we cannot conduct effective counterterrorism operations without presence and partners on the ground.

Foreign terrorists will not leave the United States alone simply because our politicians have grown tired of taking the fight to them. The President needs

to explain to the American people why he thinks abandoning our partners and retreating in the face of the Taliban will make America safer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, \$865,000 dollars—\$865,000. That is roughly the cost of every new job the White House claims their so-called American Jobs Plan would create, \$865,000.

This is how the math shakes out if you use the most favorable estimates that the Biden administration itself prefers. Figures reported by Bloomberg News come out to about \$865,000 per job. Other analyses have found numbers actually north of \$860,000.

Here is where the number comes from. The White House has tried to claim their spending plan would create 19 million jobs over the next decade. That is completely false. The Washington Post Fact Checker gave Democrats multiple Pinocchios for this false claim.

Nineteen million jobs is one estimate of the total number of jobs the entire country would add over the next decade, from all sources—all sources. The same estimate says we are on track to add more than 16 million of those same jobs without the bill.

So this proposal to tax, borrow, and spend \$2.25 trillion would only create 2.6 million new jobs. And remember, these are the rosiest—rosiest—best-case estimates that the White House itself has been pushing.

Now, I know a whole lot of Kentucky entrepreneurs and business owners who create more than one job if we gave them \$865,000 to invest and expand.

Mr. President, I am sure you represent a lot of smart people who could turn an \$865,000 investment into more than just one job.

The awful arithmetic just underscores how disappointing the proposal is. When the American people think of infrastructure, they think of honest-to-goodness public works projects that truly invest in the public good—things that build our Nation's backbone. And when Congress tackles real, tangible infrastructure issues in a smart fashion, there is big, broad bipartisan support.

The 2015 highway bill, the FAST Act, was a huge bipartisan lift that Senator INHOFE and former Senator Boxer hammered out together. I was proud to play a major role in that accomplishment myself. It was the first full 5-year highway bill that Congress had passed in 20 years. And it won 83 votes in the Senate and about the same percentage over in the House.

Even more recently, in 2018, the Senate passed America's Water Infrastructure Act, 99 to 1—the new investments in water infrastructure across the country to create jobs, grow the economy, and ensure that American families get the safe drinking water they deserve, 99 to 1.

Just last year, another water infrastructure package came out of the EPW Committee unanimously and cleared the Senate in a package that passed 92 to 6.

So there is bipartisan appetite for smart infrastructure bills that are built the right way. The Senate has proven that over and over again. There isn't much appetite for using the word "infrastructure" to justify a colossal—colossal—multitrillion-dollar slush fund for unrelated bad ideas.

A Harvard economist and infrastructure expert says, and listen to this, "It does a bit of violence to the English language" to call this an infrastructure proposal. That is a Harvard economist.

An expert at Columbia says big chunks of the proposal are "really social spending, not productivity-enhancing infrastructure of any kind."

One political analyst wrote:

[T]he plan . . . reads like a liberal wish list for everything the left has wanted.

Less than 6—6 percent of the proposal goes to roads and bridges, less than 6 percent. It would send more money to just electric cars than it would spend on our Nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports, and waterways combined.

And while this proposal chases every green fad, it would also slam our economy with the largest tax hikes in a generation.

Experts at the Wharton School of Business have projected the plan would decrease GDP, decrease capital stock, and reduce workers' hourly wages 10, 20, and 30 years down the road.

Economists at Rice University recently looked at a similar package of Democratic tax hikes and found it would lead to a loss of a million jobs here in our country over just 2 years. Exactly when American workers are counting on an economic recovery, Democrats want to slap the economy with a massive set of tax increases.

So look, this noninfrastructure "infrastructure" plan is cut from the same cloth as the Democrats' nonvoting rights "voting rights" bill.

Both these subjects are ripe for bipartisan work. Both are subjects the Senate has addressed in the past with thoughtful compromises that have earned broad support. And both are issues where the American people will reject a far-left approach that makes their lives worse.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive ses-

sion to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:52 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Trottenberg nomination?

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 144 Ex.]

YEAS—82

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hassan | Peters |
| Barrasso | Heinrich | Portman |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Risch |
| Blunt | Hoeven | Romney |
| Boozman | Hyde-Smith | Rosen |
| Brown | Inhofe | Rounds |
| Burr | Johnson | Sanders |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Sasse |
| Capito | Kelly | Schatz |
| Cardin | King | Schumer |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Casey | Lankford | Sinema |
| Cassidy | Leahy | Smith |
| Collins | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Coons | Lummis | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Thune |
| Cramer | Marshall | Toomey |
| Crapo | McConnell | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Menendez | Warner |
| Durbin | Merkley | Warren |
| Ernst | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Fischer | Murphy | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Murray | Young |
| Graham | Ossoff | |
| Grassley | Padilla | |

NAYS—15

| | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Rubio |
| Braun | Hawley | Scott (FL) |
| Cotton | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Cruz | Lee | Shelby |
| Daines | Paul | Tuberville |

NOT VOTING—3

Booker Tillis Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 35, Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Ben Ray Lujan, Debbie Stabenow, Ron Wyden, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Chris Van Hollen, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 145 Ex.]

YEAS—55

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Bennet | Hirono | Romney |
| Blumenthal | Kaine | Rosen |
| Brown | Kelly | Rounds |
| Burr | King | Sanders |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Schatz |
| Capito | Leahy | Schumer |
| Cardin | Lujan | Shaheen |
| Carper | Manchin | Sinema |
| Casey | Markey | Smith |
| Collins | Menendez | Stabenow |
| Coons | Merkley | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Murkowski | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warner |
| Durbin | Murray | Warren |
| Feinstein | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Hassan | Peters | |
| Heinrich | Portman | |

NAYS—42

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Moran |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Paul |
| Blunt | Hagerty | Risch |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rubio |
| Braun | Hoever | Sasse |
| Cassidy | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cramer | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Lankford | Thune |
| Cruz | Lee | Toomey |
| Daines | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Ernst | Marshall | Wicker |
| Fischer | McConnell | Young |

NOT VOTING—3

Booker Tillis Warnock

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

GEORGIA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, over the past several weeks, all eyes have been on Georgia and the State legislation that is being considered on voting rights of Georgia's citizens. In response to the new voting restrictions the State's Governor signed into law last month, American leaders from many walks of life responded. It has really brought the issue of voter suppression to the forefront at the beginning of a national debate.

We are told that hundreds—hundreds—of bill changes and amendments are being offered in State legislatures across the country, all modeled after the Georgia goal, the Georgia outline, of reducing the opportunity to vote in America.

If you have a functioning democracy where people actually count votes, the number of people who show up is as important as how they vote, and I think the people in Georgia have realized that with this new approach they are taking. There has been a broad condemnation of the Georgia voting law, and it has inspired a display of unity in support of our fundamental right to vote across America. It seems that some of my Republican colleagues would rather silence the law's critics than address the very real issues that the law creates.

Over the recess, the minority leader, Senator McCONNELL, issued a warning to the leaders of corporations who were voicing their opposition to the Georgia law. He said to them: You stay out of politics. He apparently did not say "Keep your money out of politics" because he has been a fan of the Citizens United decision, which gives those same corporations not only the opportunity but the experience of spending millions of dollars in every election cycle to affect the outcome.

I appreciate the Republican leader's newfound passion for addressing the in-

fluence of big corporations, but rather than silencing leaders in the private sector from speaking their minds, which is their constitutional right, I would invite my Republican colleagues to join Democrats in taking more meaningful steps to protect our political system from corporate overreach.

They can join us if they wish in supporting the For the People Act, the democracy defense bill. The For the People Act would limit the influence of dark money and special interests in our politics, require big money contributors and special interests to actually drop the veil and show us who they are, and tighten the rules that affect the super PACs. It is a commonsense solution for protecting every American's First Amendment right to free speech, and it would level the playing field of the political system so that everybody has an equal say.

I would also invite my Republican colleagues to revive the bipartisan spirit of the Voting Rights Act. I can remember a time when renewal of the Voting Rights Act was a virtually unanimous bipartisan effort. Unfortunately, that changed, and the Supreme Court decision didn't make it any easier. So we are trying with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to return to the days of bipartisanship in addressing the issue of race and politics. It is especially important given the scourge of voter suppression laws we have seen in State legislatures across the country, Georgia being the most recent example.

This new Georgia law isn't new at all. It emerges from the playbook that is over 120 years old. It goes all the way back to the 1890s, when Reconstruction was followed by the Jim Crow era in the South, with the creation of something known as the Mississippi Plan. Historian Dr. Carol Anderson, who teaches at Emory University, has referred to the Mississippi Plan, a template of State law, as "a dizzying array of poll taxes, literacy tests, understanding clauses, newfangled voter registration rules, and 'good character' clauses—all intentionally racially discriminatory but dressed up in the genteel garb of bringing 'integrity' back to the voting booth."

A politician who sought to replicate the Mississippi Plan in the State of Virginia noted that their goal—he was very blunt in what he said—noted their goal was to "[eliminate] every [Black] voter who can be gotten rid of, legally, without materially impairing the numerical strength of the white electorate."

Today's voter restrictions might not involve poll taxes, literacy tests, or counting the number of beans in a jar, but like the laws passed during the Jim Crow era, Georgia's new voting law is a deliberate effort to suppress voters, particularly voters of color. There is no other way to describe it when the law includes provisions that make it harder for Georgians to vote.

Let me give you some examples. I read an article last week in the New

York Times, April 11. Nick Corasaniti and Reid Epstein did an analysis, page by page, of what the Georgia law would do, and it was pretty clear why they did it. President Biden won Georgia by just 11,779 votes—11,779—out of 5 million.

The new law that has been proposed and has been signed by the Governor of Georgia will curtail ballot access for voters in booming urban and suburban counties, home to many Democratic voters.

Another provision makes it a crime—a crime—to offer water to voters waiting in line. Of course, those waiting in line tend to be in densely populated communities and largely minority communities.

Some of the things that the Georgia law will do:

Voters will now have less time to request absentee ballots.

Georgia has cut by more than half the period during which voters can request an absentee ballot, from . . . six months . . . to less than three.

This will most certainly reduce the number of people [seeking] absentee ballots and the number of people who actually vote. In the last Presidential election—

And this is the key sentence that defines the goal of the Georgia legislation.

In the last Presidential election, 1.3 million Georgians—about 26 percent of the state's electorate—voted with absentee ballots. Of those who returned absentee ballots last year in 2020, 65 percent voted for [Joe] Biden and 34 percent chose Donald J. Trump.

Do you understand why the Republican legislature wants to put an end to the absentee ballot?

The shorter window will limit opportunities for get-out-the-vote efforts and put strain on new local election boards, which . . . have less time to process ballots.

There are strict new ID requirements for absentee ballots.

Previously, Georgia law required voters to simply sign their absentee ballot applications. Now they . . . have to provide a number from a driver's license or an equivalent state-issued identification. This is virtually certain to limit access.

It is now illegal [under the new Georgia law] for election officials to mail out absentee ballot applications to all voters.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit last year, Georgia's [Republican] secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, . . . mailed absentee ballot applications to every registered voter in the state ahead of its June primary. This led to absentee voting by record numbers of Georgians.

When Mr. Raffensperger didn't mail applications again for the general election, several local government agencies did so, particularly in Georgia's large urban counties.

This is a move that is now being made illegal by the law created by the legislature and signed by Governor Kemp.

With the loss of automatically mailed applications, some voters will invariably not request a ballot, since the application served as a reminder to people that were eligible to vote.

Keep in mind, it wasn't the ballot that was sent without solicitation; it was an application that had to be returned by the voter before they actually received the ballot. It was a re-

minder, one that the Georgia legislature would like to drop.

Speaking of dropping, "drop boxes still exist for absentee ballots . . . but barely."

For the 2020 election in Georgia, there were 94 drop boxes across the four counties that make up the core of metropolitan Atlanta: Fulton, DeKalb—

They pronounce it "DeKab"; we call it "DeKalb."

—and Gwinnett.

The new law limits the same 4 counties to a total of 23 drop boxes, from 94 to 23. And it won't just be fewer drop boxes to deposit your ballot. "Instead of 24-hour access outdoors, the boxes [are] placed indoors at government buildings and early-voting sites and will thus be unavailable for voters to drop off their ballots" in the evening and nonbusiness hours, which means more reliance on mail and the uncertainty of that.

With mobile voting centers—as they say in the New York Times, think about "an RV where you can vote"—"more than 11,200 people voted at the two vehicles at Fulton County in the last election." These vehicles traversed the county during voting periods, effectively bringing polling sites to people. "Georgia has now outlawed this practice."

Under the Georgia law, early voting has expanded at a lot of small counties but not the most populous ones. The strict rules will affect Georgians who actually work traditional hours for a living. They will have less flexible schedules and fewer opportunities to vote.

I spoke to you about the single greatest outrage:

Offering food and water for voters waiting in line now risks [criminal] misdemeanor charges.

Long lines for voting in Georgia are an unfortunate reality, and are often found in the poor, densely populated communities that tend to vote Democratic. During the primary election last June, when temperatures hovered above 80 degrees with high humidity, multiple voting locations across the State had lines in which voters waited more than two hours.

Now they will be denied access to water and food.

If you go to the wrong polling place [under the new Georgia law], it will be . . . harder to vote.

It put strict requirements there.

If election problems arise, a common occurrence, it is now more difficult [even in court] to extend voting hours.

With a mix of changes to vote-counting, high-turnout elections will probably mean long, long waits for results.

And we remember what happened last year when, during that period of calculating, President Trump went to town with all sorts of bizarre theories rejected by scores of courts as to voter fraud that never was found.

Election officials can no longer accept third-party funding, (a measure that nods to rightwing conspiracy theories) [that President Trump is also peddling].

With an eye toward voter fraud, the state attorney general [manages] an election hotline.

The Republican-controlled legislature has more control over State Election Board.

The secretary of state, for his audacity in challenging Trump's vote fraud theories, has been officially removed as a voting member of the State election board by the legislature in Georgia.

The GOP-led legislature is empowered to suspend county election officials.

The bottom line is this: The Georgians didn't waste any time taking a look at the voting results where they lost two Senate seats for the first time in history and decided that they had to change the rules. Too many voters showed up, the wrong voters, so they decided to change the rules and make it more difficult for those, particularly minority, voters who wanted to come and express themselves by the right to vote.

So the question now is, What are we going to do about it? Well, the a local chamber of commerce, Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, and others have made it clear that this is an outrage. It is one that we shouldn't countenance or accept in the 21st century.

This, unfortunately, was an exercise in the 19th century to reenslave African Americans after the Civil War. Sadly, vestiges of that continued, right up until the 1960s when the new Civil Rights Act ended up banning some of the most outrageous conduct that came out of the Jim Crow era.

Now the Republican Party nationally, the Georgia Republican Party, the Governor, and the legislature have decided to return to those days. What a sad commentary it is on Mr. Lincoln's Republican Party.

It was embarrassing enough as a Democrat to realize that the earliest stages of Jim Crow were created, conceived, and enforced by the Democrats of their day. For the Republicans, they fought that effort, as they should, in the name of Lincoln and what he brought to their party nationally. Now, today, the tables have turned 180 degrees. It is the Democrats who are trying to bring to the public's attention what is happening in Georgia and in other States. It is sad that the Republicans have decided that the only way to win an election is to control the vote, that their ideas can't be sold anymore to voters across this country.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

Madam President, no community in America has been spared from the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationwide, we have lost nearly 570,000 mothers, fathers, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. In Illinois, the number is 21,000.

Like so many other diseases and health conditions, the pandemic has inflicted disproportionate harm on communities of color: Black Americans, Native Americans, and members of the Latinx community. Sadly, these disparities come as no surprise. America has a long history of medical inequality. From premature births to premature deaths, people of color suffer disproportionately in America's troubled health system. People of color in

America suffer more chronic and acute health conditions; they are likely to go without needed medical care; and they have shorter life expectancies. The reasons for the disparities are many, but they include access to affordable healthcare, inadequate research, and too few healthcare professionals of color.

Martin Luther King, Jr., called healthcare inequality the most shocking and inhumane form of injustice. Far too often, this inequality begins even before birth. It should shock the conscience of America—one of the wealthiest nations on Earth—that we have one of the poorest records on the globe for maternal health.

Think of this: The United States is 1 of only 13 nations in the world wherein the maternal mortality rate—the death of mothers—is worse now than it was 25 years ago. How is that possible? Every year in America, nearly 1,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications, and 70,000 others suffer near fatal complications as a result of pregnancy.

Now think of this: Women of color in the United States are two to three times more likely than White women to die as a result of pregnancy. In Illinois, sadly, that number is six times more likely. What makes these maternal deaths even more tragic is that an estimated 60 percent—more than half of them—are preventable.

I have given much thought to this and have spoken with real experts, which is why ROBIN KELLY—the Congresswoman from Illinois—and I joined with Senator DUCKWORTH and a number of other Democratic Senators in introducing legislation to decrease America's rates of maternal sickness and death, especially among new mothers of color. We call our measure the MOMMA Act.

One of the major provisions of this legislation is a requirement that Medicaid provide health coverage for new moms for a full year post-pregnancy instead of just 60 days, which it currently is. Congresswoman KELLY and I worked hard to get a modified version of this provision in the American Rescue Plan, President Biden's singular achievement in his first few weeks in office. Thanks to the law, States now have the option to expand their Medicaid programs for new mothers for the next 5 years.

Making sure that new moms have health coverage for a full year post-pregnancy will go a long way toward catching, preventing, and treating potentially life-threatening conditions and problems. This is critical because, in some States—even in my State of Illinois—nearly 60 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths occur between 43 and 364 days postpartum.

Well, there is good news to report today. While we are still working to pass the MOMMA Act, the State of Illinois pursued another avenue for expanding Medicaid coverage for new moms. For over a year, Illinois has been seeking a Medicaid section 1115

waiver to allow Medicaid-eligible women in our State to keep their health coverage for a year after their pregnancies.

Representatives KELLY, UNDERWOOD, Senator DUCKWORTH, and I have been leading letters and championing this effort from our State, and, this week, I am happy to announce that the Biden-Harris administration granted that waiver, making Illinois the very first State in the Nation to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for new moms. This will ensure access to vital health services, help to promote better birth outcomes, reduce the rate of maternal sickness and death in my home State, and, I hope, set the stage as a model for other States to follow.

I can think of no better way to honor this year's Black Maternal Health Week than to support State efforts to expand Medicaid healthcare to new moms. Another way would be to pass Senator BOOKER's 2021 Black Maternal Health Week resolution, which I am proud to cosponsor.

As poet Maya Angelou told us, we cannot change the past, but when we know better, we must do better. We now know that we can do better to protect the lives of pregnant women and newborn babies, and I am pleased that my State of Illinois will be part of leading that effort.

GUN VIOLENCE

Madam President, today, in Chicago, at the Lurie Children's Hospital—one of our best—little 1-year-old Kayden Swann is in critical condition, clinging to life in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Last week, at 11 a.m., on a Tuesday morning on Lake Shore Drive—one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city—1-year-old Kayden was shot in the head while riding in the backseat of a car. He was an innocent victim hit in a road rage shooting.

As we pray for Kayden's recovery, as we express gratitude for the medical workers who are working around the clock to keep him alive, we have to ask ourselves a basic question: When it comes to this sickening gun violence that happens every day in our country, what are we going to do? Give up or stand up?

On March 23, I held a hearing on gun violence in our Judiciary Committee. There was a mass shooting spree that killed eight people in Atlanta, GA, on the day I announced the hearing. Then there was a mass shooting in Boulder, CO, that killed 10 people the night before the hearing. Others have followed.

Since that hearing on March 23, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been at least 38 mass shootings in less than a month in America, where a "mass shooting" is defined as an incident where at least four people were shot. This past weekend—and I am sorry to say this is not an exception—25 people were shot in the city of Chicago alone. Every day, we lose 109 American lives to gun violence. Hundreds more are shot and wounded, car-

rying physical and emotional scars for a lifetime. These victims are our neighbors, our friends, our families, and even a 1-year-old baby like Kayden Swann.

I am glad President Biden is stepping up to this issue and taking action. Last week, the President stood in the White House Rose Garden and called gun violence exactly what it is. It is a public health crisis. He is right. We need to take a public health approach to reduce the violence that is killing so many of our fellow Americans.

There is a playbook that works. We need to gather data and study the problem, identify causes and risk factors, and develop targeted prevention and intervention strategies that will help to bring the number of shootings down. We have stopped epidemics before—we are in the midst of one now—and we can do it again if we are willing to stand up and act. It works.

President Biden took action last week and announced a set of common-sense steps that are consistent with the Second Amendment and that actually will help reduce violence. He wants to reduce the proliferation of homemade "ghost guns," which are untraceable and often undetectable; regulate the use of stabilizing braces that can effectively convert pistols into short-barreled rifles, like the weapon that was used by the gunman in Boulder; put forth a model State extreme risk protection order law that would help States that want to use these interventions; restart an annual firearms trafficking report that tracks patterns of illicit gun trafficking; nominate a gun safety expert David Chipman to give the ATF its first confirmed leader since 2015. I am going to pay special attention to this nominee because it will come through the Senate Judiciary Committee.

How many times have you heard it said that we don't need new laws; we just need to enforce the laws that are on the books? One of the Agencies that enforces these laws is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or ATF. What the gun lobby has done over the years is to make sure the ATF hasn't had the money or hasn't had any leaders. We haven't had anyone in the post for 6 years at the ATF with Senate confirmation. I want to change that if we can.

Last, but certainly not least, the President announced billions of dollars for evidence-based community violence intervention programs through the American Jobs Plan and other grant program efforts. These are smart, targeted, and important proposals that are well within the bounds of the Constitution and the President's authority. I commend him for that action.

Yet we shouldn't leave it to the President alone. We have a responsibility, too. We have to make sure we close the loopholes in the gun background check system that make it too easy for criminals and those with mental instability to get guns. We have known it for years, but we haven't

closed these gaps. The House has passed universal background check legislation. Now the ball is in the Senate's court. We need at least 10 Republicans if all Democrats will support it. I hope my Republican colleagues are willing to stand and vote to close these gaps.

There are other commonsense changes we can make that deal with gun violence and community prevention. At a hearing I held on March 23, Dr. Selwyn Rogers of University of Chicago Medicine pointed out that the NIH has nearly \$43 billion for medical research, yet only \$12.5 million dedicated to funding for research into reducing gun violence. We need to invest more into this research and into the CDC research, too. We also need to support evidence-based community programs that show they are effective in reducing violence.

Saving lives from the horrors of gun violence should not be a partisan issue. It is absolutely heartbreaking to think about little Kayden Swann's sitting in the backseat of a car on Lake Shore Drive—which I look out from my place in Chicago and see every day—and realize that he was shot in the head at the age of 1 and is now fighting to survive.

The question is, What are we going to do with this challenge of 40,000 gun violence deaths every year and more than 100 every day—give up or stand up?

I will tell you that I am not going to give up. I am going to do all I can to push commonsense, constitutional reforms to bring gun violence to an end in America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Good Friday, another Capitol Police officer lost his life defending this building and all those in it.

Officer Billy Evans was killed when an individual rammed Officer Evans with his car at the barricade Officer Evans was manning. Another Capitol Police officer, Officer Ken Shaver, was injured in the attack.

We talk about how police officers leave their homes each day not knowing what they will face. Good Friday's attack was a reminder of how true that is.

We can only be thankful that despite the ever-present risk that they will not make it back to their homes, men and women like Officer Evans and Officer Shaver still choose to serve—to put themselves on the frontlines facing evil and danger so that the rest of us don't have to.

I know the officers of the Capitol Police have had an unthinkable difficult

few months. I hope they know how grateful we are for their service.

Today Officer Billy Evans lies in honor in the Rotunda, a fitting tribute to a man who lived and died to protect those who serve in this building.

My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Evans' two children, Logan and Abigail, with his mother Janice, and with all those who mourn this brave man. May his memory be eternal.

SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on Friday, in what is fast becoming a theme of his Presidency, President Biden caved to the demands of the far left and officially established his Court-packing Commission.

Yes, Court packing, an idea that had been consigned to the ash heap of history almost a century ago, has been given new life by the far left who—wait for it—are upset that a duly elected Republican President was able to get his Justices confirmed to the Supreme Court.

That is right, Mr. President. The terrible crisis we are facing is that a Republican President was able to fill three vacancies on the Supreme Court.

I confess I had missed the part in the Constitution that said the Supreme Court is only legitimate if a majority of its members were nominated by a Democratic President or at least reliably delivers liberals' preferred outcomes.

But liberals didn't, and now they are eager to "restore balance" to the Supreme Court by expanding the number of Supreme Court Justices and ensuring that a Democratic President fills the new spots.

President Biden—the same man who once called President Roosevelt's failed Court-packing proposal a "bonehead idea" and a "terrible, terrible mistake to make"—is apparently falling in with the far left's demands.

His Commission, composed largely of left-leaning scholars, Democratic operatives, and a few conservatives as bipartisan window dressing, will consider Court packing and other structural "reforms" like term limits for Supreme Court Justices.

It is funny how Democrats weren't too concerned about term limits when revered liberal Justices were serving for decades. But faced with the terrible prospect that a Justice Barrett or a Justice Gorsuch might have a similarly long career, the left is suddenly eager to limit Supreme Court terms.

There are so many things wrong with the left's Court-packing proposals that it is difficult to know where to begin, but let's start with the ludicrous idea that packing the Court will somehow restore the Court's legitimacy in the eyes of the public—not that the Court's legitimacy has been lost in the eyes of anyone but far-left liberals.

In fact, the Supreme Court might be the Federal institution that garners the greatest degree of respect from the public. The Supreme Court's approval rating routinely exceeds that of Con-

gress and usually by a substantial margin.

But let's suppose for a second that liberals are correct and that the Supreme Court has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

If that is the case, there is nothing, nothing Democrats could do that would be more guaranteed to further undermine public trust in the Court than to pack the Court—nothing.

Do Democrats seriously think that they can enhance the credibility of the Supreme Court in the eyes of the American people by expanding it to add more Democratic Justices? Do they think the 74 million people who voted for Republicans in the last election are going to see this as adding necessary balance to the Court? If they do, they should think again.

As Justice Stephen Breyer noted just last week, "It is wrong to think of the court as another political institution. And it is doubly wrong to think of its members as junior-league politicians. Structural alteration motivated by the perception of political influence can only feed that perception, further eroding that trust."

That from Justice Stephen Breyer.

Republicans and, I venture to say, a lot of Independent and Democrat voters as well will see this for exactly what it is, and that is an attempt by Democrats to undermine an essential institution to ensure that Democrats get the Supreme Court rulings that they want.

Democrats can dress up their openness to Court-packing proposals in lofty language and faux expressions of concern for the institution, but no one—no one is fooled. This is about power, pure and simple. Democrats want power.

They want to be able to impose the policies they want when they want them, and they are afraid, if the Supreme Court isn't packed full of Democrat nominees, the Supreme Court might rule against them.

And so more and more Democrats are apparently perfectly willing to consider undermining, if not destroying, a fundamental part of our system of government to guarantee—to guarantee their political power.

Let's think about this in practical terms for a minute. Let's suppose that Democrats actually succeed in expanding the Supreme Court and adding more Democratic nominees. What do they think is going to happen next time there is a Republican President and a Republican Congress?

Well, I can tell you. Republicans would make their own move to "restore balance" and add some more Republican Supreme Court nominees. And then I imagine when Democrats retook power, they would do the same thing.

In a decade or so, the Supreme Court could be expanded to laughable proportions. Think about it. How many Justices are we going to have? Fifteen? Twenty? Thirty? There would be no end to this lunacy.

In the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg only 2 years ago, “Nine seems to be a good number. It’s been that way for a long time. . . . I think it was a bad idea when President Franklin Roosevelt tried to pack the court.”

And that, again, was the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She said it was a bad idea.

And fortunately for the country, when President Roosevelt proposed his Court-packing plan, both Republicans and Democrats opposed it.

Unfortunately, Democrats today seem to be more concerned with power than principle or, in some cases, maybe lack the courage to stand up to the ferocity of the far left.

In the past, President Biden has powerfully defended American institutions, but now he seems incapable of standing up to the far left, and so now we have an American President implicitly endorsing the idea of Court packing by establishing a Commission to study the proposal.

Democrats like to talk about democracy and making sure that people have a voice, but it is becoming increasingly clear that they think their voices and the voices of liberal Americans are the only voices that should be heard.

Now, if they can’t win by convincing the public to elect strong Democratic majorities, they have made it increasingly clear that they are willing to undermine our institutions to ensure their grip on power.

Don’t like the makeup of the Supreme Court? Expand the Court with new Democratic Justices until you can be sure you get the results you want.

Don’t like Senate rules like the legislative filibuster that give the minority party a voice in legislation? Change the rules.

Don’t like your election prospects? Pass legislation like H.R. 1 or S. 1, designed to give your party a permanent advantage in electoral contests.

I understand Democrats’ passion for their political beliefs. I am pretty passionate about advancing my political principles, but I believe we should be advancing our principles the democratic way, by persuading people to vote for us, not by undermining our democratic institutions to give our party an advantage.

I am deeply disappointed that President Biden found himself unable to stand up to pressure from the radical left, but I hope—I hope that at least some Democrats will find the courage to oppose these dangerous attempts to undermine our system of government.

The Biden Court-packing Commission is a solution in search of a problem and an attempt at a raw power grab by Democrats. It should quickly fade into the obscurity that it deserves.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF GARY GENSLER

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to discuss the nomina-

tion of Mr. Gary Gensler to serve as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

To start this, I just want to remind my colleagues, the mission of the SEC is really threefold: It is to protect investors; it is to facilitate capital formation; and it is to maintain fair, orderly, and efficient financial markets, capital markets.

And the fact is, America’s capital markets are, without a doubt, the envy of the world. There are no other capital markets anywhere on the planet that have the depth, the liquidity, the diversity, the flexibility that allow growing businesses to grow as readily as our capital markets allow.

And that is a big part of why we are outperforming the world in terms of a recovery from the pandemic—coronavirus infections and lockdowns and all the rest. It is one of many reasons, but it is an important one.

It is also worth remembering that that recovery can be stymied if regulators impose inappropriate, burdensome regulations, including, say, backdoor regulation by enforcements that we have seen in the past that hamper job growth, that limit access to capital or if these regulators mandate managers of publically traded companies to favor so-called stakeholders over the interests of the people who actually own the company, which is to say the shareholders.

The SEC has historically administered Federal security laws and pursued its mission on a pretty bipartisan basis, but increasingly, there are some who want the SEC to stray from this tradition and instead to push the bounds of its legal and regulatory authorities in order to advance a particular liberal, social, and cultural agenda.

Unfortunately, when he was the Chairman of the CFTC, Mr. Gensler demonstrated a willingness to push the legal authorities and the legal limits of that Agency’s authority. He was responsible for a CFTC rule on position limits that was overturned in court and another rule on cross-border swaps that was viewed by many, including international regulators, as exceeding the CFTC’s authority. This raises questions about whether he would be willing to exceed the legal bounds on the SEC’s authority as well.

Let me acknowledge that Mr. Gensler, without a doubt, has a great deal of knowledge and experience in our securities markets. There is no question about it. He has a lot of expertise there. But based on his record as a regulator in the past and statements that he has made during the course of this nomination process, I am concerned that he will use the SEC and its regulatory powers to advance an agenda that should not be the purview of the SEC—specifically, global warming and climate change, political spending disclosures, and issues of racial inequality and diversity.

Securities laws and securities regulations are not the appropriate vehicle to

address any of these topics. That is the reason why we have environmental and political spending and civil rights laws, and we have Federal Agencies that are responsible for enforcing those laws. If anybody thinks those laws are not adequate, OK, then take it up before Congress and have Congress change the laws. We are the people who should be responsible because we are the ones who are accountable to the American people. It is certainly not the role of the Securities and Exchange Commission—an independent financial regulator with no political accountability to voters whatsoever—to address difficult, challenging, sometimes contentious political, social, and cultural issues.

I have to say, nothing that Mr. Gensler said at his hearing or since has alleviated my concerns. Mr. Gensler did state that his regulatory approach would be grounded in the Supreme Court’s definition of “materiality,” but he declined to explain what that really means, what that means to him, what are the limiting principles.

For example, I asked him if it would be OK for companies to be forced or pressured to comply with quotas with respect to the race, the gender, or sexual orientation of their board members. In response, Mr. Gensler did not disavow the idea of forcing or pressuring companies to use these kinds of quotas to achieve board diversity.

I also asked him if a company’s financially insignificant spending on, say, energy or maybe political advocacy—if that can ever be material information that must be disclosed to investors. Again, I was talking about financially insignificant transactions. In response, Mr. Gensler essentially indicated that if a number of politically motivated activist investors wanted to know the information—for example, information related to global warming or political spending—then that makes it material information even if it is financially insignificant to the company, and therefore the SEC could presumably mandate its disclosure. I think that is completely inconsistent with the whole idea of materiality.

What it seems to me the bottom line for Mr. Gensler is, as long there are liberal activist investors who demand to know certain things about environmental, social, or corporate governance issues, then it would be OK to force disclosure of those issues, and I was not able to discern a situation in which Mr. Gensler would not be willing to mandate disclosure of that kind of information.

There is another issue that is concerning to me, and that is Mr. Gensler’s answers to questions during his nomination hearing about recent stock market volatility.

We have seen some extraordinary volatility in a handful of companies for a variety of relatively novel reasons. Some have suggested that we have to take a paternalistic approach to grown adults and maybe limit their ability to

make investments because they don't know well enough what is good for them. And maybe there are apps that make it too user friendly to buy stocks, so maybe that leads to imprudent decisions.

I find it shocking that we would actually contemplate limiting grown adults' ability to make their own decisions. I wasn't sure where Mr. Gensler came out on this, and in some respects, I think, he indicated that there may be some sympathy to this paternalistic view that I think would be a very, very big mistake.

So the nomination process just never alleviated the concerns I have. Maybe my concerns will prove to have been misplaced. I certainly hope so. Mr. Gensler is a very intelligent, knowledgeable, thoughtful person. He is very likeable. I happen to like him personally. But because of these concerns I have, I will not be able to support his nomination, and I will be voting no later today.

Mr. TOOMEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator TOOMEY's comments and the spirit in which they were delivered.

I rise to urge my colleagues to support President Biden's nominee to be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Gary Gensler.

In March, Mr. Gensler appeared before the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee for his nomination hearing. The committee advanced him to the full Senate with a bipartisan vote.

Mr. Gensler is an experienced public servant with a strong record of holding Wall Street accountable. He will lead the SEC at a time when it has become more and more obvious to more and more people that the stock market is detached from the reality of working families' lives. Mr. Gensler will bring the SEC's focus back to the people who make this country work. He will push to ensure that markets are a way for families to save and invest for their children's education, for a downpayment on a home, for a secure retirement, not a game for hedge fund managers, where workers lose every single time.

Mr. Gensler, as Chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, led the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to bring transparency and stability to more markets. He was tough on enforcement issues. He cracked down on big banks that had manipulated interest rates for years.

Mr. Gensler is an expert on finance and markets. He previously served as Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets.

He will carry out the SEC's mission—the reason it was created—to ensure that U.S. capital markets deliver growth and investment opportunities that grow the real economy and give

middle-class families the opportunity to build wealth. He understands we need to ensure confidence and stability in our markets as the foundation to grow American businesses and support the workers who make their companies successful. Mr. Gensler will listen to families saving for the future as well as professionals who manage workers' pensions and retirements. He will make sure that savers, large and small, can hold corporate executives accountable.

When it comes to enforcement, Mr. Gensler has shown the guts to take on bad actors, no matter how big and no matter how powerful they are, and he will hold them accountable.

The pandemic has reminded people just how rigged the Wall Street system can be.

About 2 months ago, I became chair of the committee that is called the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. To most in this body, the committee is just referred to as the Banking Committee or Senate Banking. This is a committee where Wall Street—it has been all about Wall Street, little about housing, and damn near nothing about urban affairs. Those days are behind us. This committee will look out for small investors. That is why the SEC is so important, and Mr. Gensler's work. It will help to expand housing, it will make a difference in communities, and it will no longer be the province of Wall Street.

If you look only at the stock market, it looks like the pandemic never happened. The market reached new highs last fall. Families and businesses continued to suffer. Workers put their health and their lives on the line to keep businesses running, and once again, hedge funds and insiders reaped the vast majority of the profits.

We know that over the last decade or so—more than a decade—we have seen profits go up, we have seen executive compensation explode upward, and we have seen workers more and more productive. Yet wages have been flat.

That is our challenge. We saw during the pandemic that was even worse. It doesn't have to be that way. We can have a market that works for everyone. Mr. Gensler shares that goal. Under his leadership, the SEC can protect people's hard-earned savings, can keep our markets stable, and can make them fair. This will let us create an economy where everyone can participate.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on Mr. Gensler's nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER ANDREW L. PATE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to say thank you and

farewell to a member of the Commerce Committee staff who is leaving the Senate soon. Commander Andrew L. Pate—Andy, as we know him—is completing his 2-year assignment as senior policy adviser and Coast Guard congressional fellow on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

For those who are not aware, the Coast Guard's congressional fellows program is a highly competitive program that assigns Coast Guard officers to congressional offices and committees as detailees. This elite program brings the Coast Guard's "cream of the crop" to Washington. These officers uphold the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. These special assignments serve to educate Coast Guard officers on the inner workings of Congress. The Coast Guard benefits from this program by bringing its unique perspective to the process of drafting and passing legislation, as well as gaining leaders within its own ranks who deeply understand the legislative process. And, of course, the Congress gains immensely from the obvious leadership and intelligence and work ethic of these great men and women.

Andy Pate was an obvious choice for this fellowship—not once but twice. In July of 2008, not long after I arrived in the Senate, then-Lieutenant Pate joined my office to serve as my first Coast Guard fellow, where he set a high bar for those who would come after him.

Following his departure, Andy completed tours as a commanding officer of Coast Guard cutters around the world. His operational assignments have focused on search and rescue, counter-narcotics, migrant interdiction, homeland security, defense operations, and living marine resource protection programs spanning the North Atlantic, the Equator, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Arabian Gulf.

Andy also served as strategic analyst in the Commandant's Advisory Group at Coast Guard headquarters and as a transition team member for the 25th Commandant of the Coast Guard. He went on to become the Coast Guard's international security fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Since rejoining my team in 2019, Andy has had a significant impact on the Commerce Committee. His expertise as a cutterman and senior officer has meaningfully informed the committee's efforts, culminating in the enactment of the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act—the service's 2-year comprehensive reauthorization.

Additionally, Commander Pate championed a key Coast Guard provision in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress extended lease protections for service-members in residential or vehicle

leases impacted by “stop movement” orders. However, the original bill unintentionally omitted the Coast Guard. The small but important change Andy initiated has had a positive impact on thousands of his fellow Coast Guard members and their families.

This is an exciting moment for Andy. Soon, he will assume command of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk in Key West, FL. I know the Mohawk and the Coast Guard will benefit from Andy’s steadfast spirit and determination.

I salute Andy’s service and leadership in our Nation’s armed services, and I thank him for all of his hard work. I have been blessed with many fellows. I rise to speak for fellows really only when they come for two tours in my office.

Andy’s presence on the Commerce Committee will be missed, but his colleagues and his country are grateful for his dedication and diligence. I know Kristen, Aidan, Karissa, and Alexander are proud of him also.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest gratitude and wish Andy Pate the best of luck in his future endeavors.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in all honesty, sometimes it is hard to figure out exactly what the policy goals are that the Biden administration is striving to achieve.

Take the so-called COVID-19 relief bill that was signed into law just last month. Despite the fact that every pandemic relief bill that became law last year received broad bipartisan support, this bill did not. In fact, not a single Republican voted for it.

The Biden administration is preparing to rinse and repeat this strategy with a new misleading label, calling it infrastructure. But the reason why Republicans didn’t vote for the COVID-19 relief bill, while we did for every single one last year, was because only about 10 percent of the bill was actually dedicated to the goal stated by the proponents. Only about 10 percent of the massive \$1.9 trillion bill was related to the pandemic, and less than 1 percent was related to our vaccination efforts.

As I said, now the administration is preparing a rinse-and-repeat strategy with a new misleading label: “infrastructure.”

If one of the surveyed questions on “Family Feud” was, “Name something that is considered infrastructure,” I would bet the top two answers would be roads and bridges. The other popular answers would probably include: airports, railroads, ports, tunnels, and waterways. But our Democratic col-

leagues are broadening that definition in ways that really are not accurate.

Just as they tried to brand things like environmental justice funding as “pandemic relief,” they are now getting very creative with the definition of “infrastructure.” In fact, the President’s infrastructure plan has a lot in common with his COVID-19 relief plan.

First of all is the pricetag. The non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates this plan would cost \$2.65 trillion. That is trillion with a “t.”

For reference, the last major infrastructure bill that became law in 2015 was widely described as the largest package in more than a decade. That overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation totaled just over \$300 billion, one-ninth of the cost of this new plan.

But there is another similarity between these two massive proposals, the long list of unrelated progressive or liberal policy priorities. Only about 5 percent of the spending in this colossal infrastructure plan is directed toward roads and bridges.

So where does the rest of the money go? For starters, this proposal would provide \$174 billion for electric vehicle chargers, far more money than would go toward the roads and bridges Americans drive on every day. There are roughly 280 million cars on the road, the vast majority of which are internal combustion engine driven. Yet rather than provide for the vast majority of travelers, this would favor \$174 billion for electric vehicle chargers.

This proposal includes a whopping \$400 billion to support caregiving for elderly and disabled Americans. There is no question about the importance of quality care for these individuals, but this is no definition of infrastructure. So this is really another Trojan horse: calling it one thing, making it look like one thing, and doing something entirely unrelated and different.

There is \$25 billion for government childcare programs; \$10 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corp—whatever that is. Then there is the massive funding for sustainable buildings and private homes.

This proposal would provide \$213 billion to build or retrofit more than 2 million affordable and sustainable places to live. This is really just the Green New Deal 2.0. And right on cue come the unrealistic targets to lower emissions.

Rather than research and development or innovation, this relies on taxation and regulation, an unrealistic goal. This infrastructure plan calls for 100 percent of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2035.

To be clear, we are nowhere close to that target now. And the effort to get there would have a devastating impact on States all across the country, including mine.

Last year, renewables accounted for only 20 percent of our total electricity generation. In Texas, we generate more electricity from wind turbines than

any other source in the country, but yet last year alone, renewables of all kinds—solar, wind, biomass, you name it—accounted for less than 20 percent. Natural gas accounts for more than double that.

We experienced what happens when these unrealistic, pie-in-the-sky goals are set. We had a 120-year weather event, the so-called polar vortex in Texas. It is a long, sustained period of subzero freezing that may be more common in Massachusetts than it is in Texas. As a matter of fact, like I said, it is a 120-year weather event. What we found out was the severe weather affected wind turbines, which effectively froze up snow- and ice-covered solar panels, and even natural gas went offline because the electric pumps that compress the natural gas to put it into the pipelines failed as well. About the only reliable fuel source during that period of time was nuclear power, which represents a fraction of our total energy needs.

I am a proud supporter of renewable energy sources as well as a broader effort to reduce emissions. There is no question about this. Just last week, I joined folks from the North American Development Bank and their public and private partners to announce a new solar farm in Webb County, Laredo, TX. But there is a big difference between supporting renewables and what the Biden administration is trying to do with this unrealistic and pie-in-the-sky target.

At the start of the pandemic, we got a small taste of the real-world impact of a shift from oil and gas and what that would look like. When the pandemic hit, the need for Texas’s greatest natural resource plummeted. Demand dropped precipitously as people stayed home and quit driving. With fewer cars and planes on the road and in the sky, oil and gas producers were left with a high supply and low demand. And that is when the layoffs began.

Last fall, a report by Deloitte found that between March and August of 2020, about 107,000 oil and gas workers were laid off. To be clear, this doesn’t include the countless workers who had their pay cut or were temporarily furloughed.

If the Biden administration enacts aggressive deadlines to eradicate our most prevalent and abundant energy sources, and the jobs they create, a lot of Texas energy workers and their families would be left high and dry.

But the bad news doesn’t stop there. The list of unrelated and downright damaging provisions in this bill is a long one. The big question with any legislation, especially something of this size, is, How are you going to pay for it?

In the past, the vast majority of infrastructure funding has come from the highway trust fund, but for years it has faced serious shortfalls. To a serious degree, Texans have footed the bill for those shortfalls. In fact, we are one of the few States that receives less than

it contributes to the highway trust fund, a so-called donor State.

But rather than address the solvency of the trust fund and the inequitable burden put on donor States before the authorization expires at the end of September, the administration has completely ignored the issue altogether.

The President's infrastructure plan doesn't even draw on the highway trust fund. So in order to pay for the sweeping liberal wish list, President Biden has proposed the largest set of tax hikes in more than half a century. By increasing the business tax rate from 21 to 28 percent, we would see an increase in revenue in the short term but serious long-term economic harm.

The tax burden on American companies would be greater than that of our biggest trading partner, as well as our competitors, and would have far-reaching consequences on our competitiveness and our economy and jobs for hard-working American families.

After all, we know the cost of these tax hikes won't be reflected in lower earnings for CEOs. The brunt would be borne by consumers who pay higher prices, workers who earn lower wages, and, let's not forget, those whose jobs would disappear entirely.

A study by the National Association of Manufacturers found this proposal would put 1 million people out of work in the United States in the next 2 years—a million people out of work. Just as we are beginning to come out of the pandemic, having been vaccinated and taking care for both our health and the health of others and now opening up our economy, this would be the reward for the American people: 1 million Americans out of work as a result of this misguided policy.

This legislation is not about improving America's roads and bridges; it is another partisan wish list under the guise of something that has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support. Despite what some people think, the American people, I believe, are smart enough to see through this bill for what it is, an unaffordable, unwanted liberal wish list.

The Federal deficit is at its highest since World War II. This is not a time to go on another spending spree, using borrowed money from future generations. This is the time to craft smart policies that achieve the needs of our country without driving the next generation deeper and deeper into debt.

There is no question that America's roads and bridges—our real infrastructure—need an investment from the Federal Government, but we can update that infrastructure for far less than \$2.65 trillion.

Last Congress, the Environment and Public Works Committee developed a truly bipartisan example of an infrastructure bill. It included provisions for rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges to improve road safety, protect the environment, and grow the economy.

The bill was so popular, in fact, that it passed the committee unanimously. And what was the pricetag on that bill? Just over 10 percent of the cost of the President's current proposal. It would have authorized \$287 billion over 5 years. That is \$100 billion less than what Democrats proposed spending on caregiving alone.

A bipartisan bill to rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges is possible. We have done it before, and we can do it again. But our Democratic colleagues are going to have trouble getting not only Republicans but many Members of their own party on board if they continue to push this sort of unrealistic, economy-harming sort of plan.

I am sure it comes as no surprise that putting Americans out of work while driving up the deficit and hurting our global competitiveness are wildly unpopular. Even smoke and mirrors can't conceal the impact of this so-called infrastructure bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING STATE PATROL SERGEANT JIM SMITH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, a short tribute and then maybe about an 8- or 9-minute speech that I have.

Today, I want to pay tribute to Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim Smith, who courageously gave his life in the line of duty this past Friday.

Sergeant Smith, a 27-year Iowa State Patrol veteran and a tactical team leader, put himself in harm's way on behalf of his fellow Iowans last week, and it cost him everything.

Sergeant Smith is being remembered as a dedicated father, a loyal public servant, a man of God who left a positive impression on everybody he encountered.

I mourn for his family, fellow troopers, friends, and the entire Independence, IA, community at this tragic loss.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I pose the following question to my fellow Senators, something I doubt there is much disagreement on, but time is moving on. We need to take some action shortly. So this question, if a deadly poison were killing thousands of Americans each year, what would you do? Would you work to find the solution to prevent these deaths, or would you choose to be complacent, reactive, and allow fellow citizens to die? If all levels of law enforcement were pleading for action to prevent future fatalities, would you heed their warning—the last question—or would you roll the dice with the lives that are on the line?

I know I would seek to be very proactive. I am here today to call attention to the dire need for Congress to schedule fentanyl-related substances before it is too late.

Without hyperbole or theatrics, such action could save the lives of thousands of Americans. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is about 30 times more potent than heroin.

While dangerous and deadly, fentanyl also has some medically recognized qualities, often for pain management. However, fentanyl abuse has become more common and more dangerous in recent years because of the increase in fentanyl analogs. These analogs are chemically similar to fentanyl, but many are much more powerful and, of course, deadly.

Much of the illicitly manufactured fentanyl that is responsible for American overdoses and the deaths connected with them has originated in China. Unfortunately, these deadly drugs are not permanently controlled in the United States. As such, fentanyl analogs aren't on the same footing as other dangerous drugs like heroin, LSD, ecstasy, or cocaine. The sad part is, the drug dealers know all of this. They can skirt the law by easily manipulating the structure of fentanyl so that it isn't technically covered by existing law. But that doesn't make it any less potent and dangerous. We all know the results are lethal. How lethal? Well, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that more than 36,000 people died from overdoses involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl in 2019. Nearly 50,000 overdose deaths are projected for 2020.

As is, the law can't keep up with the rapidly evolving drug trends when the chemists work on these drugs and change them just a little bit to get around the law. The Attorney General can outlaw new variations of a drug on an ad hoc basis, but do you know what? This process can take years. By the time an analog is added to the schedule, do you know what? The drug traffickers are already out with one or more other variations that don't violate that law. Simply put, the law can't keep up with the rapid pace of illicit drug producers and traffickers. This is particularly problematic for fentanyl analog enforcement.

How can we address this seemingly endless cycle? How can we ensure that those suffering from substance use disorders aren't killed at the hands of greedy drug dealers? The answer is to stop fentanyl analogs from being available in the very first place. We must keep it out of our country and, hence, then being peddled by criminals.

On February 6, 2018, the Drug Enforcement Administration published a temporary order that scheduled and placed all fentanyl-related substances in schedule I. Congress subsequently extended this authority until May 6 of this year, which is just around the corner. So we have 23 days until this authority expires. Congress must act to extend this scheduling order. If we do not, we will face a surge of rapidly emerging fentanyl drugs, wherein the chemists and the criminals will be ahead of anything that the Justice Department does.

The Justice Department then has made clear that this classwide scheduling order has made a big difference in Chinese fentanyl entering our country.

China has agreed to match U.S. policy targeting synthetic fentanyl, but if we lose the authority to rapidly detect and outlaw fentanyl analogs, we lose any footing that we have with the Chinese Government in preventing fentanyl from entering our country. This scheduling order saves lives because China reciprocates. China's motive in scheduling fentanyl analogs isn't necessarily altruistic; it is because the United States is doing it. So if we stop, China stops, and if that happens, fentanyl analogs will surely flood our communities.

We can prevent this, so we must prevent it. With the ongoing increase in overdose deaths, we must continue to support efforts to curb fentanyl abuse. This means we must extend the classwide scheduling order that otherwise expires on May 6, 23 days away.

Now this, I think—I am pretty sure—isn't a political or a partisan issue. Senators from both sides of the aisle support efforts to schedule fentanyl substances. Members of the Biden administration have also indicated that addressing fentanyl is urgent. In fact, during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Garland stated that the constantly evolving nature of fentanyl analogs is—and I want to quote the new Attorney General—"a problem both for detection as well as . . . enforcement" and that he is "in favor of doing something either by scheduling or legislation" to proactively address the problem of fentanyl-related substances. Likewise, both law enforcement and substance abuse prevention groups believe Congress must act in scheduling fentanyl.

It is up to Congress to pass legislation to extend the fentanyl scheduling order. So I urge all of my colleagues to join me and a lot of other Republicans and Democrats in the fight against fentanyl. In the midst of an opioid epidemic, a polydrug crisis, and a COVID-19 pandemic, how can we allow for any additional death and destruction? The clock is ticking. We are closing in on the deadline of May 6.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back on both sides on the Sherman nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON SHERMAN NOMINATION

All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sherman nomination?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Ex.]

YEAS—56

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Portman |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Romney |
| Booker | Kaine | Rosen |
| Brown | Kelly | Sanders |
| Burr | King | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Capito | Leahy | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Lujan | Sinema |
| Carper | Manchin | Smith |
| Casey | Markey | Stabenow |
| Collins | Menendez | Tester |
| Coons | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Murkowski | Warner |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warnock |
| Durbin | Murray | Warren |
| Feinstein | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Hassan | Peters | |

NAYS—42

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Moran |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Paul |
| Blunt | Hagerty | Risch |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rubio |
| Braun | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Cassidy | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cramer | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Lankford | Thune |
| Cruz | Lee | Toomey |
| Daines | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Ernst | Marshall | Wicker |
| Fischer | McConnell | Young |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Rounds | Tillis |
|--------|--------|

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 33, Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren,

Robert Menendez, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Ex.]

YEAS—53

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Peters |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Rosen |
| Booker | Kaine | Sanders |
| Brown | Kelly | Schatz |
| Cantwell | King | Schumer |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Carper | Leahy | Sinema |
| Casey | Lujan | Smith |
| Collins | Lummis | Stabenow |
| Coons | Manchin | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Menendez | Warner |
| Durbin | Merkley | Warnock |
| Feinstein | Murphy | Warren |
| Gillibrand | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Grassley | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Hassan | Padilla | |

NAYS—45

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Paul |
| Blackburn | Graham | Portman |
| Blunt | Hagerty | Risch |
| Boozman | Hawley | Romney |
| Braun | Hoeven | Rubio |
| Burr | Hyde-Smith | Sasse |
| Capito | Inhofe | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Cotton | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lee | Thune |
| Crapo | Marshall | Toomey |
| Cruz | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Daines | Moran | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Young |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Rounds | Tillis |
|--------|--------|

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached correspondence be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2021.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SCHUMER: Consistent with S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, as amended by S. Res. 4, 95th Cong. (1977); S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004); Pub. L. No. 109-177, § 506, 120 Stat. 247 (2006); S. Res. 50, 110th Cong. (2007); and S. Res. 470, 113th Cong. (2014), we request that the nomination of the position of National Cyber Director, as created in Section 1752 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (P.L. 116-283), be referred to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Sincerely,

MARK R. WARNER,
Chairman.
MARCO RUBIO,
Vice Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOD KAUFMAN

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor longtime Kanawha County Circuit Judge Tod Kaufman upon his retirement after more than 32 remarkable years of service to the 13th Judicial Circuit.

I have often said there is no greater accomplishment than to find yourself in a position to give back to the community you love. As a Charleston native, Judge Kaufman has served the people of Kanawha County with professionalism, fairmindedness, and great respect from the day he took office in 1988.

Following his undergraduate education, he worked as a paralegal in the Washington, DC, law firm of Covington & Burling and received a law degree from West Virginia University College of Law in 1980. He served a clerkship on the U.S. Tax Court during law school before joining his late father's Charleston law firm of Kaufman & Ratliff in 1980. Prior to his appointment as judge, he served as my colleague in the State legislature and was appointed to the State senate in 1982 by then-Governor Jay Rockefeller and was elected in 1984. Judge Kaufman's lectured internationally at prestigious law schools and conferences and is a former member of the Mass Litigation Panel of the West Virginia Supreme Court and past president and executive officer of the West Virginia Judicial Association.

Shortly after graduating law school, Judge Kaufman tragically lost his par-

ents, former Senator and World War II veteran Paul Kaufman and Rose, and brother, Steven, in a car accident. I know their unfailing love and influence had a tremendous impact on the person he was to become. Both of his parents were extremely active in their community and passionate about many social issues. I will always be personally grateful to them that they passed their work ethic and compassion on to Judge Kaufman, because he has done so much good in our home State due to their influence. In 2011, the 35th Street Bridge over the Kanawha River between the East End and Kanawha City was renamed in their honor, and I am certain they would be so very proud of Judge Kaufman's legacy and personal values.

Throughout the years, Judge Kaufman has witnessed the drastic changes in the judicial landscape. Technology in the courts has played a crucial role, especially with current events as they are, but Judge Kaufman has always promoted the value of interpersonal communication and protecting the humanism in our court processes. He has been fiercely protective of the interests of the people in front of him in the courtroom, acknowledging the heavy responsibility of representing the justice system. He and I served in the State senate together, and in the many years I have called him a friend, Judge Kaufman has never taken his position lightly and has always seen himself primarily as a servant of the people of Kanawha County and of West Virginia. His view of the law is something I will always admire, and I know it has also inspired countless young judges and lawyers.

I will always be grateful to Judge Kaufman for his years of friendship and our shared passion for serving the people of West Virginia. While he is retiring and everyone is sure to miss his strong leadership, Judge Kaufman's unwavering dedication will leave a lasting legacy with the countless lives he has touched. Again, I congratulate him for his remarkable years of service, and I am honored to wish good health and much happiness to Judge Kaufman, his wife Barrie, and their daughters, Paula, Caroline, and Sophia, in the days and years ahead.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. DAVID C. WHERRY

• Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the remarkable life of Dr. David Wherry.

Born in Pawnee City, NE, he was the son of the former Nebraska Senator Kenneth S. Wherry, who served as the minority leader here in the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Wherry attended Doane College in Crete, NE, before enrolling at the U.S. Naval Academy.

He then chose to go into the medical profession.

Little did he know the major impact he would have in this field.

After graduating from George Washington University with his medical degree and completing his surgical training, he was commissioned as a Medical Corps officer in the U.S. Air Force.

He then moved overseas for his residency, taking a position as a surgical doctor at the 7559th USAF Hospital in Burtonwood, United Kingdom.

He spent more than 2 years there before returning to the United States to become a teacher at George Washington University and later also at Georgetown University.

After years of teaching, Dr. Wherry returned to Active Duty during Operation Desert Storm and retired in 1993 as a colonel.

Following his years of service to our country, he returned to teaching and academic research.

Dr. Wherry became renowned in the medical world as a leading innovator in minimally invasive surgery, such as laparoscopic cholecystectomy on the gallbladder.

In his research in this area, he published over 50 manuscripts, 3 book chapters, and produced 2 films.

Additionally, he helped found laparoscopic cholecystectomy courses for servicemembers and trained thousands of military surgeons.

I want to note that Dr. Wherry was one of the first doctors in the United States to perform colonoscopies, making him a leading expert in this procedure that is performed on so many Americans and is vital in helping to detect and catch diseases like colon cancer.

International work was important to him, and he was successful in helping bring humanitarian aid to hospitals in the Philippines.

He also collaborated with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, USUHS, and with the University of the Philippines/Philippine General Hospital in bringing surgical residents to do scientific research at USUHS as well as arranged exchanges between medical students for training purposes.

He wanted to share and expand on his work by collaborating with others, so he helped found the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons.

He was a member of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie and International Biliary Association.

On top of all of these efforts, he continued to be a senior surgical consultant to the medical division of the U.S. Department of State.

His work and dedication to improving surgeries around the world and for our military men and women has been recognized by the State Department and the Department of Defense.

Both agencies presented him with their Meritorious Honor Award.

In addition to his place as a leader in the medical world, he was also a dedicated husband and father.

His wife, Azucena "Ceny" Wherry, was an RN whom he married in 1975.

His son, Kenneth D. Wherry, followed in his father's footsteps and joined the military to serve his country, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Dr. David Wherry represents the best of Nebraska.

He was a hard worker who was not afraid to put in long hours.

Because of his dedication to studying and advancing medicine, he changed the world for the better.

I join all Nebraskans in honoring Dr. Wherry's life and recognizing his faithful service to our Nation and his incredible contributions to medicine.●

67TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA SENATE CON- CURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4010

● Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, North Dakota Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4010 as passed by the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota.

The material follows:

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF
NORTH DAKOTA IN REGULAR SESSION COM-
MENCING TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4010

(Senators Clemens, Myrdal)

(Representative Rohr)

A concurrent resolution clarifying the 1975 ratification by the 44th Legislative Assembly of the proposed 1972 Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States only was valid through March 22, 1979.

Whereas, the 92nd Congress of the United States of America, during its second session, with the constitutionally required vote of two-thirds of both houses, on March 22, 1972, gave final approval to House Joint Resolution No. 208, commonly referred to as the Equal Rights Amendment, to propose the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, in offering the proposed federal constitutional amendment to America's state lawmakers, the 92nd Congress chose a deadline of 7 years, or until March 22, 1979, for the constitutionally mandated ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the country's state legislatures; and

Whereas, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007, the regular session of the 44th Legislative Assembly in 1975, responded by ratifying the proposed 1972 Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of North Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

That the 67th Legislative Assembly deems that the vitality of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007 of the 44th Legislative Assembly by which North Dakota lawmakers ratified the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment, officially lapsed at 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 1979; and be it further

Resolved, that, after March 22, 1979, the Legislative Assembly, while in agreement women and men should enjoy equal rights in the eyes of the law, should not be counted by Congress, the Archivist of the United States, lawmakers in any other state, any court of law, or any other person, as still having on record a live ratification of the proposed

Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States as was offered by House Joint Resolution No. 208 of the 92nd Congress on March 22, 1972; and be it further

Resolved, that the 67th Legislative Assembly respectfully requests the full and complete verbatim text of this resolution be duly published in the United States Senate's portion of the Congressional Record, as an official memorial to the United States Senate, and that this resolution be referred to the committee of the United States Senate with appropriate jurisdiction over its subject matter; and be it further

Resolved, that the 67th Legislative Assembly respectfully requests the substance of this resolution be duly entered in the United States House of Representatives' portion of the Congressional Record, as an official memorial to the United States House of Representatives, and that this resolution be referred to the committee of the United States House of Representatives with appropriate jurisdiction over its subject matter; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States, the secretary and parliamentarian of the United States Senate; the Speaker, clerk, and parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives; each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation; and the Archivist of the United States at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

BRENT SANFORD,
*President of the Sen-
ate.*

SHANDA MORGAN,
*Secretary of the Sen-
ate.*

KIM A. KOPPELMAN,
Speaker of the House.

BUELL J. REICH,
*Chief Clerk of the
House.*

Filed in this office this 24th day of March,
2021, at 3:23 o'clock p.m.

ALVIN A. JAEGER,
Secretary of State.●

RECOGNIZING THE UTAH DIAPER BANK

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I offer my recognition of the unique service of the Utah Diaper Bank to the people of Utah and, specifically, to the children of our great State. Their service, now spanning nearly a decade, officially started in March 2013 when a few dedicated individuals recognized the necessity for an organized, community-based approach to collecting and distributing diapers. Today, after years of careful planning and hard work, hundreds of thousands of diapers are being distributed throughout Utah to those who need them.

Some years ago, Victor Velivis, a Utah information technology professional, was watching television when he noticed an advertisement placed by a crisis nursery. The nursery requested diapers, not to stockpile them, but because they were out—flat out—of diapers. Vic donated what diapers he could and kept tabs on the nursery for a year. A year later, the same nursery ran out again. Puzzled, he set out to investigate.

After investigating, Vic realized that safety-net programs such as the food

stamp program and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children do not cover the cost of diapers. He also realized that low-income parents cannot take advantage of free or subsidized childcare if they cannot afford to leave diapers at childcare centers. This prevents parents from accessing daycare and prevents them from being able to work or attend school on a consistent basis.

Vic began to think about alternatives. What about cloth diapers? he thought. He soon realized, however, that most people living in poverty do not have access to washing facilities. Thus, they are unable to use cloth diapers for health and sanitary reasons.

The more he learned, the more Vic realized how hard it can be for parents in need to put diapers on their children.

In some Utah families, children suffer multiple days in the same diaper. Not only is this tremendously uncomfortable, it also puts the child at risk of serious illness and disease. In fact, according to one expert source, to prevent complications, it is recommended that parents change their newborn baby's diaper every 2 to 3 hours. That is 8 to 12 diapers each day; and, at about 25 cents per diaper, a total of nearly 100 dollars per month. But what if you can't afford that? The Utah Diaper Bank was created to address this problem directly.

The Utah Diaper Bank serves the needs of infants and young children by overseeing an organized approach to collecting and distributing diapers to organizations and individuals who need them. The bank fulfills this mission by supporting diaper drives, collecting and stockpiling diapers, and then distributing diapers throughout the State. What began as a loosely connected group of friends operating out of their homes, now operates out of a warehouse and distributes hundreds of thousands of diapers annually.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated demand for the services provided by the Utah Diaper Bank. In early 2020, the Utah Diaper Bank was shipping 50,000 diapers a month with a target of 500,000–750,000 for the year. Then, once the pandemic had hit, they started shipping well over 100,000 per month. By the end of 2020, they had shipped over 880,000. They have never seen demand for diapers like they are seeing now. Yet, they continue to succeed in fulfilling their mission.

The most remarkable part of the operation of the Utah Diaper Bank is that they operate without any paid staff. Their team is made up entirely of volunteers. Further, they receive neither private nor government grants and operate on a strict collection-distribution model.

The folks at the Utah Diaper Bank undeniably deserve recognition for their devout service to the people of Utah. It is my unique privilege to honor them today.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today, I rise to recognize the Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County for 50 years of service to the Billings community.

The Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County first opened its doors in 1971, serving 70 kids out of the basement of the old public library in downtown Billings. Over the past half century, the club has grown to serve well over 500 kids and operates five clubhouses and five microsites across the Magic City.

Throughout the pandemic, the club never stopped doing what it does best serving the kids who need it most. Like many other schools and organizations, the club initially had to close their doors when COVID-19 came to Montana. But they put in the hard work and managed to reopen carefully and safely so they could continue providing a welcoming place for kids to learn together, make lifelong friendships, and build skills and confidence that will serve them for the rest of their lives. I commend president and CEO Brian Dennis and his staff for navigating these challenging times and for their steadfast commitment to ensuring every child in our community is set up to succeed.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America challenge each and every one of us to reach our full potential and be great. For the past 50 years, the Yellowstone County club has done exactly that. Congratulations, thank you, and best of luck as you continue this truly commendable work.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled "Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate During the 116th Congress" (Rept. No. 117-8).

By Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Finance:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 116th Congress" (Rept. No. 117-9).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1078. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1079. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1080. A bill to designate residents of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1081. A bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1082. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from establishing policies that prohibit the service of particular types of food in dining facilities of agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SASSE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1083. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under Holocaust-era insurance policies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1084. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1085. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Education Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1086. A bill to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, provide grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, and establish alternative sentencing for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1087. A bill to provide a duplication of benefits fix for Sandy CDBG-DR recipients,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1088. A bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1089. A bill to direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1090. A bill to eliminate the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 1091. A bill to designate certain future interstates and high priority corridors in Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1092. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary awards grants to States or State departments of agriculture for the purpose of providing support to agricultural fairs for losses sustained due to COVID-19; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1093. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1094. A bill to ensure that certain materials used in carrying out Federal infrastructure aid programs are made in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1095. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 1096. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1097. A bill to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce; to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1098. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1099. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make permanent the protections under Medicaid for recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1100. A bill to expand and improve access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress of and provide education for border agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1101. A bill to provide that silencers be treated the same as firearms accessories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1102. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants to States to inform Medicaid enrollees, SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1103. A bill to suspend any funding authorized under the American Rescue Plan of 2021 from any State government that provides monetary payments to undocumented immigrants and to require States to reimburse the Federal Government for any such payments made since the date of the enactment of such Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1104. A bill to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1105. A bill to provide COVID-19 mitigation instructions for cruise ships and other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1106. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1107. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to guarantee investments that will open new markets for forest owners in rural areas of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 149. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft program, also known as the Warthog and A-10C or OA-10C; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 150. A resolution honoring the memory of Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante on the third anniversary of her passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 151. A resolution calling on the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take action to lower prescription drug costs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 152. A resolution honoring the memory of Officer William Francis "Billy" Evans of the United States Capitol Police for his selfless acts of heroism on the grounds of the United States Capitol on April 2, 2021; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 153. A resolution recognizing the week of April 11 through April 17, 2021, as "Black Maternal Health Week" to bring na-

tional attention to the maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 154. A resolution congratulating the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the centennial of the founding of the Jordanian state; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 41

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 41, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 51, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 56

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 56, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

S. 57

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 57, a bill to increase the ability of nursing facilities to access telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 321

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 321, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 346

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 350

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 366, a bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to strengthen the use of patient-experience data within the benefit-risk framework for approval of new drugs.

S. 377

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 382

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Government Custody, and for other purposes.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to modify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Customer Protection Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promul-

gate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 464

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 464, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 477

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 477, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a refundable tax credit for travel expenditures, and for other purposes.

S. 497

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes.

S. 535

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 538

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to repeal portions of a regulation issued by the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia that require child care workers to have a degree, a certificate, or a minimum number of credit hours from an institution of higher education.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to direct the Administrator of the United States

Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global basic education programs.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for energy storage technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 660

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 660, a bill to require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through telehealth.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 792

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 792, a bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 799, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish programs for carbon dioxide capture, transport, utilization, and storage, and for other purposes.

S. 806

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 806, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to carry out activities to benefit pollinators on roadsides and highway rights-of-way, including the planting and seeding of native, locally appropriate grasses and wildflowers, including milkweed, and for other purposes.

S. 809

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 809, a bill to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other stakeholders to conserve and sustain the western population of monarch butterflies, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes.

S. 868

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 868, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease.

S. 876

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 937

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 937, a bill to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 984

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Washington

(Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 984, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 1034

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1034, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II.

S. 1071

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1071, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide pension claim enhancement assistance to individuals submitting claims for pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the commitment of the Senate to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 148, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2021, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1078. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, The U.S. Infrastructure system is in critical need of an upgrade. In February 2021, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) graded 11 of 17 infrastructure categories a D+ or worse. Systems across the Nation are in dire need of repair, including our bridges, public transit, roads, and schools.

A recent study by the Center of Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University estimated that a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure investment would create 15 million new jobs. Nearly half of these would require training past the high school level. Even without a significant investment, though, infrastructure industries are already struggling to meet workforce demands. Though the need to invest in infrastructure goes back decades, there's renewed momentum today, especially as more than 10 million people remain unemployed across the country as a result of COVID-19, exacerbating the already historic inequities that have limited women and people of color from accessing these jobs. Investments in infrastructure skills training must serve people of color, women, and other communities who have historically been excluded from good careers in infrastructure.

Industry and sector partnerships are a proven strategy for helping workers prepare for jobs that lead to strong career pathways and helping businesses find skilled workers. Congress requires states and local areas to support the development of these partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but no dedicated funding has been provided for these activities.

For workers, especially those underrepresented in infrastructure industries, support services like career counseling, child care, and transportation can often be the key to succeed in work-based learning programs. Providing these services may be outside the capacity of a business. Industry partnerships bring business together with community and human service organizations that can make these connections for workers and drastically improve their ability to succeed in training and meet business demand for skilled workers.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleague, Senator PORTMAN, the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills Act, or BUILDS Act. The BUILDS Act creates a grant program that would support industry and sector partnerships working with local businesses, industry associations and organizations, labor organizations, state and local workforce boards, economic development agencies and other partners engaged in their communities to encourage industry growth, competitiveness and collaboration to improve worker training, retention and advancement in targeted infrastructure clusters. Additionally, businesses and education providers would be connected to develop classroom curriculum to complement on-the-job learning and workers would receive support services such as mentoring and career counseling to ensure that they are successful from the pre-employment to placement in a full-time position.

As we prepare to tackle critical infrastructure needs nationwide, it's vital we also support a skilled workforce that can take on this task. This bill will help foster strong industry partnerships and career pathways in infrastructure fields to ensure we can train and upskill workers for millions of good-paying jobs and also strengthen our economy as we begin to recover from COVID-19. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle consider the BUILDS Act as a necessary component to any investment in our nation's infrastructure.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. 1091. A bill to designate certain future interstates and high priority corridors in Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1091

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LOUIE B. NUNN CUMBERLAND EXPRESSWAY.

(a) DESIGNATION AS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR.—Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 105 Stat. 2032; 133

Stat. 3018) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(92) The Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Expressway from the interchange with Interstate 65 in Barren County, Kentucky, east to the interchange with U.S. Highway 27 in Somerset, Kentucky.”.

(b) DESIGNATION AS FUTURE INTERSTATE.—Section 1105(e)(5)(A) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 109 Stat. 597; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended in the first sentence by striking “and subsection (c)(91)” and inserting “subsection (c)(91), and subsection (c)(92)”.

(c) NUMBERING OF PARKWAY.—Section 1105(e)(5)(C)(i) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 109 Stat. 598; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended by adding at the end the following: “The route referred to in subsection (c)(92) is designated as Interstate Route I-365.”.

(d) OPERATION OF VEHICLES.—Section 127(1)(3)(A) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), in the first sentence, by striking “clauses (i) through (iv) of this subparagraph” and inserting “clauses (i) through (v)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) The Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Expressway (to be designated as a spur of Interstate Route 65) from the interchange with Interstate 65 in Barren County, Kentucky, east to the interchange with U.S. Highway 27 in Somerset, Kentucky.”.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1102. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants to States to inform Medicaid enrollees, SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1102

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Access to Broadband Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. LIFELINE ENROLLMENT OUTREACH GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “covered individuals” means—

- (A) Medicaid enrollees;
- (B) SNAP participants; and
- (C) low-income residents.

(3) ELIGIBLE-BUT-NOT-ENROLLED.—The term “eligible-but-not-enrolled” means, with respect to an individual, that the individual is eligible for the Lifeline program but is not enrolled in the Lifeline program.

(4) LIFELINE PROGRAM.—The term “Lifeline program” means the Lifeline program of the Commission.

(5) LOW-INCOME.—The term “low-income” means a gross annual income at or below 135 percent of the Federal poverty level.

(6) MEDICAID ENROLLEE.—The term “Medicaid enrollee” means, with respect to a State, an individual enrolled in the State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or a waiver of that plan.

(7) REACH.—The term “reach” means, with respect to an individual, to inform the individual of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program and to provide the individual with information about the Lifeline program, as described in subsection (e).

(8) SNAP PARTICIPANT.—The term “SNAP participant” means an individual who is a member of a household that participates in the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(9) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a competitive program to make grants to States to inform covered individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may only award a grant under this section to a State that submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(2) MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED.—An application submitted by a State under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of covered individuals in the State;

(B) a plan for the activities that the State will conduct using grant funds, including a list of each agency within the State that will assist in carrying out those activities; and

(C) an estimate of the percentage of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in the State who will be reached by those activities.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) MINIMUM OF 5 STATES.—The Commission shall award grants under this section to not fewer than 5 States.

(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall give favorable consideration—

(A) to States that have higher numbers of covered individuals; and

(B) to States proposing, in the plans submitted under subsection (c)(2)(B), to conduct activities that have the potential to reach higher percentages of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in those States, as determined by the Commission, taking into consideration the estimates submitted under subsection (c)(2)(C).

(3) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable, select States from different geographic regions of the United States.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall use grant funds, in accordance with the plan included in the application of the State under subsection (c)(2)(B), to—

(A) inform covered individuals and organizations or agencies that serve those individuals, as the case may be under the terms of the grant awarded to the State, of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program;

(B) provide those covered individuals with information about the Lifeline program, including—

(i) how to apply for the Lifeline program; and

(ii) a description of the prohibition on more than 1 subscriber in each household receiving a service provided under the Lifeline program; and

(C) partner with nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide those covered individuals with assistance applying for the Lifeline program and information about product and technology choices.

(2) MULTIPLE STATE AGENCIES.—A State that receives a grant under this section may provide grant funds to 1 or more agencies located within the State to carry out the activities under the grant.

(f) OUTREACH TO STATES REGARDING GRANT PROGRAM.—Before accepting applications for the grant program established under this section, the Commission shall conduct outreach to States to ensure that States are aware of the grant program and how to apply for a grant under the grant program.

(g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after establishing the grant program under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of individuals notified of Lifeline program eligibility by States receiving grants under this section;

(B) the number of new applicants to the Lifeline program from States receiving grants under this section, including the number of those applicants whose Lifeline program applications were approved and the number of those applicants whose Lifeline program applications were denied; and

(C) the cost-effectiveness of the grant program established under this section.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 149—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE A-10 THUNDERBOLT II ATTACK AIRCRAFT PROGRAM, ALSO KNOWN AS THE WARTHOG AND A-10C OR OA-10C

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 149

Whereas the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft (referred to in this preamble as the “A-10”)—

(1) has seen action in every major United States Military conflict since the first production A-10 was delivered to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in October 1975; and

(2) since that time, has received several upgrades that are reflected in the 281 A-10s in service as of the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas, since Operation Desert Storm in 1991, the A-10 has become a preferred close air support platform for ground troops, striking fear in the enemies of the United States and inspiring pride in the members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the A-10, which has been the backbone of the close air support mission of the Air Force for more than 40 years, has proven to be a highly accurate, mobile, and durable weapons-delivery platform that can be used against all ground targets;

Whereas the A-10 supports close air support with a variety of forward-firing, free-fall, and precision-guided munitions;

Whereas the A-10 is able to perform combat search and rescue, air interdiction, armed reconnaissance, suppression of enemy air defenses, special operations forces support, and countersea operations in low-threat and high-threat environments, day or night;

Whereas the A-10 provides the Air Force with an extensive ability to survey the battlefield and then fix, engage, target, and destroy a wide range of mobile and fixed targets as an arsenal aircraft, including tanks and other highly armored vehicles in quantity;

Whereas the A-10 was specifically designed with protection from small-arms fire, including self-sealing fuel tanks, redundant flight controls, and a titanium cockpit tub, which has proven vital to the safe return of pilots despite heavy damage from enemy ground fire;

Whereas the A-10 has the lowest rate of friendly fire incidents of any combat fighter or bomber;

Whereas the A-10 has one of the largest carrying capacities for a fighter-type aircraft and can carry a wide range of munitions and electronic countermeasures without sacrificing air-to-ground capabilities;

Whereas the close air support provided by the A-10, which has proven invaluable on the battlefield, is better than the close air support provided by any other fighter aircraft because—

(1) the A-10 has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitudes; and

(2) the close air support provided by the A-10 is simple and effective;

Whereas the slower airspeeds of the A-10 enable longer loiter times, increasing support to troops in contact and battlefield coverage;

Whereas, of all combat planes in the arsenal of the United States, the A-10 is the least expensive to operate and purchase;

Whereas, while the A-10 flew only 30 percent of the total sorties of the Air Force during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, these aircraft achieved more than half of the confirmed Iraqi equipment losses and fired 90 percent of the precision-guided Maverick missiles;

Whereas, during Operation Allied Force in 1999—

(1) A-10s destroyed more field-deployed Serbian weaponry than any other allied weapon system; and

(2) combat search and rescue support from the A-10 was 100 percent effective, successfully rescuing 1 F-117 pilot and 1 F-16CG pilot;

Whereas, during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, the A-10 flew 32 percent of the combat sorties in both theaters, and from 2006 to late 2013, the A-10 flew 19 percent of close air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the A-10 is an effective close air support platform to counter violent extremist organizations, including the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the continuing demands for close air support in Iraq and Afghanistan keep the A-10 a relevant platform, but one that requires upgrades;

Whereas, if the A-10 is removed from service, certain gaps in responsive close air support, forward air controller, air interdiction, strike control and reconnaissance, and combat search and rescue support could widen;

Whereas the A-10 can be serviced and operated with high sortie rates from austere bases with limited facilities or logistical support near battle areas, including unprepared dirt, grass, and narrow road runways,

and from airfields that are too short or rough to handle fast jets;

Whereas global power is essential to preserving global security and stability, and the A-10 is essential to ensuring that the United States is able to continue providing unmatched airpower, to gain and maintain air superiority, and to extend its global reach;

Whereas the A-10 program supports the Air Force, including the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, the A-10 is flying in operational combat squadrons at—

(1) Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona;

(2) Eglin Air Force Base, Florida;

(3) Moody Air Force Base, Georgia;

(4) Gowen Field Air National Guard Base, Idaho;

(5) Fort Wayne Air National Guard Station, Indiana;

(6) Warfield Air National Guard Base, Maryland;

(7) Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan;

(8) Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri;

(9) Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; and

(10) Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea;

Whereas the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, with an inventory of 84 A-10s—

(1) has deployed 12 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and

(2) is responsible for training all A-10 pilots;

Whereas the 175th Wing at Warfield Air National Guard Base, with an inventory of 21 A-10s, has deployed 6 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and

Whereas the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, with an inventory of 27 A-10s, has deployed 9 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support the A-10 Thunderbolt II program in future fiscal years because—

(1) continued support for the A-10 Thunderbolt II program is imperative to the national security of the United States; and

(2) the United States cannot afford to risk its national security, or the national security of its allies, by allowing that program to fall short of its vital mission.

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA “JERI” BUSTAMANTE ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 150

Whereas Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as “Jeri Bustamante”) lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication, and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2021, marks 3 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as “Jeri Bustamante”);

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO TAKE ACTION TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 151

Whereas the United States is facing a pandemic, and economic crisis, caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) that threatens the health and financial well-being of nearly every family in the United States;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers and patients in the United States were charged higher prices for prescription drugs than consumers and patients in other countries around the world;

Whereas families in the United States continue to face financial hardship from unaffordable out-of-pocket costs and higher premiums that have been exacerbated by an economic crisis and losses in employer-sponsored health coverage;

Whereas 8 in 10 individuals in the United States say the cost of prescriptions is unreasonable, and nearly 3 in 10 individuals across the United States are rationing their medicine due to high prescription drug costs;

Whereas the prescription drug cost crisis has put families at risk for poor health outcomes, increasing the likelihood of complications from a severe case of COVID-19 for those families;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, people of color, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, were disproportionately impacted by high prescription drug costs, which was due in part to a higher prevalence of chronic conditions in those populations that require expensive prescription drugs;

Whereas people of color, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, are dying at much higher rates as a result of COVID-19, and other diseases, for which affordable prescription drugs can and should be available;

Whereas any price gouging by pharmaceutical companies is a root cause of health disparities in the United States;

Whereas nearly 1 in 3 individuals in the United States facing increased prescription drug costs spend less on basic necessities, including groceries, to account for that increased prescription drug cost;

Whereas approximately 25 percent of the monthly premium for a health care consumer in the United States goes to prescription drug costs;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 health care consumers decline other medical tests or procedures, or put off a visit to the doctor's office, because of increased prescription drug costs;

Whereas pharmaceutical companies abuse monopoly control granted by the Federal Government, in the form of patents and regulatory exclusivities, to limit competition and raise prescription drug costs;

Whereas 8 out of 10 new drug patents are for slight modifications to existing drugs, not for innovating new drug products;

Whereas 9 out of 10 of the largest pharmaceutical companies spend more on sales and marketing than on researching new drugs;

Whereas each of the 356 drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration between 2010 and 2019 was developed through taxpayer-funded research conducted by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas the 18 pharmaceutical companies on the S&P 500 spent more money on stock buybacks and dividends than on research and development between 2009 and 2018;

Whereas the pharmaceutical and medical products industry spent \$295,000,000 on lobbying in 2019, more than any other industry and nearly double the next closest industry;

Whereas the pharmaceutical industry employs more lobbyists than there are Members of Congress;

Whereas the 25 largest pharmaceutical companies in the United States achieve an average profit margin above 20 percent, more than twice the average profit margin of the other 500 largest companies in the United States;

Whereas pharmaceutical spending growth in the United States is projected to outpace inflation for the foreseeable future;

Whereas pharmaceutical companies raised the price of 245 drugs in the first 5 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the average price increase being 23.8 percent;

Whereas 61 of the 245 prescription drugs that saw price hikes during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic were being used to treat COVID-19, and another 30 drugs were undergoing clinical trials for use against that virus;

Whereas nearly 9 in 10 adults in the United States said they were concerned the pharmaceutical industry would use the pandemic to raise prescription drug prices;

Whereas the United States spends twice as much money on prescription drugs when compared to other economically-comparable countries, including Canada, France, and the United Kingdom, despite purchasing fewer drugs per individual;

Whereas adults in the United States consistently rank the pharmaceutical industry as their least liked industry, with the industry being ranked less favorably than the oil, banking, and airline industries;

Whereas 8 out of 10 adults in the United States say prescription drug costs are unreasonable and driven by the desire for profits by pharmaceutical companies;

Whereas the President can license generic competition with patented products when it

is in the public interest, including to combat abusive price gouging by large pharmaceutical companies;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this preamble as the “Secretary”) can require reasonable pricing in return for receiving Federal funding and other support for research and development; and

Whereas the President and the Secretary can lower prescription drug prices under existing law and authorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the authority of the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this resolution as the “Secretary”) to lower prescription drug prices;

(2) calls on the President and the Secretary to take administrative action to lower prescription drug prices under existing law and authorities, including—

(A) Federal Government use, pursuant to section 1498(a) of title 28, United States Code;

(B) march-in rights, pursuant to section 203 of title 35, United States Code;

(C) royalty-free rights, pursuant to sections 202(c)(4) and 209(d)(1) of title 35, United States Code;

(D) the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, established by section 1115A(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(a)(1)); and

(E) all other existing law and authorities; and

(3) encourages the President to use existing law and authorities to align prescription drug prices in the United States with drug prices in other economically-comparable countries, including Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER WILLIAM FRANCIS “BILLY” EVANS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR HIS SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM ON THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON APRIL 2, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr.

SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 152

Whereas William Francis Evans was born in North Adams, MA to Howard and Janice Evans;

Whereas Officer Evans joined the United States Capitol Police force in March 2003, after graduating from Western New England College in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and completing training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center;

Whereas Officer Evans served as a member of the First Responder Unit for over 15 years, where his fellow officers referred to him as "King of the North;"

Whereas on the afternoon of April 2, 2021, Officer Evans was killed in the line of duty while protecting the North Barricade at the United States Capitol with fellow Officer Ken Shaver, who was also injured;

Whereas Officer Evans is survived by family and loved ones, including his children, Logan and Abigail, and their mother, Shannon Terranova; his mother, Janice; his sister, Julie Kucyn; his brother-in-law, Andrew; his nephew, Timothy and niece Katherine; and aunts, uncles, and cousins;

Whereas Officer Evans was a life-long fan and fervent support of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots and cherished time with his children building with Lego, having lightsaber duels, and doing arts and crafts;

Whereas Officer Evans and his colleagues at the United States Capitol Police are true national heroes to whom the United States and the Capitol community owe a deep debt of gratitude: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the memory of United States Capitol Police Officer William Francis "Billy" Evans for the selfless acts of heroism displayed on April 2, 2021, in risking and sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of United States Capitol Police Officer William Francis "Billy" Evans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 153—RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2021, AS "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK" TO BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG BLACK WOMEN AND BIRTHING PERSONS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY,

Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 153

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 2 to 3 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes;

Whereas Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications, known as "maternal morbidities", twice as often as white women;

Whereas maternal mortality rates in the United States are—

(1) among the highest in the developed world; and

(2) increasing rapidly;

Whereas the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent countries, in part because of the disproportionate mortality rate among Black women;

Whereas Black women are 49 percent more likely than white women to deliver prematurely;

Whereas the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across—

(1) income levels;

(2) education levels; and

(3) socioeconomic status;

Whereas structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black women in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women;

Whereas racism and discrimination play a consequential role in the maternal healthcare experiences and outcomes of Black birthing people;

Whereas a fair and wide distribution of resources and birth options, especially with regard to reproductive healthcare services and maternal health programming, are critical to closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted issues within the broken healthcare system in the United States and the harm of that system to Black women and birthing persons by exposing—

(1) increased barriers to accessing prenatal and postpartum care, including maternal mental healthcare;

(2) the lack of uniform hospital policies permitting doulas and support persons to be present during labor and delivery;

(3) inconsistent hospital policies regarding the separation of the newborn from a mother that is suspected positive for COVID-19;

(4) complexities in COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics trials including pregnant and lactating people;

(5) increased rates of caesarean section deliveries;

(6) shortened hospital stays following delivery;

(7) provider shortages and lack of sufficient policies to allow home births attended by midwives;

(8) insufficient practical support for delivery of care by midwives, including telehealth access;

(9) adverse economic impact on Black mothers and families due to job loss or reduction in income during quarantine and the pandemic recession; and

(10) pervasive racial injustice against Black people in the criminal justice, social, and healthcare systems;

Whereas, even as there is growing concern about improving access to mental health services, Black women are least likely to have access to mental health screenings, treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy;

Whereas justice-informed, culturally congruent models of care are beneficial to Black women; and

Whereas an investment must be made in—

(1) maternity care for Black women and birthing persons, including support of care led by the communities most affected by the maternal health crisis in the United States;

(2) continuous health insurance coverage to support Black women and birthing persons for the full postpartum period up to at least 1 year after giving birth; and

(3) policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal healthcare that is free from gender and racial discrimination, regardless of incarceration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) that Black women are experiencing high, disproportionate rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;

(2) that the alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women are unacceptable;

(3) that, in order to better mitigate the effects of systemic and structural racism, Congress must work toward ensuring that the Black community has—

(A) safe and affordable housing;

(B) transportation equity;

(C) nutritious food;

(D) clean air and water;

(E) environments free from toxins;

(F) fair treatment within the criminal justice system;

(G) safety and freedom from violence;

(H) a living wage;

(I) equal economic opportunity;

(J) a sustained workforce pipeline for diverse perinatal professionals; and

(K) comprehensive, quality, and affordable healthcare with access to the full spectrum of reproductive care;

(4) that, in order to improve maternal health outcomes, Congress must fully support and encourage policies grounded in the human rights and reproductive justice frameworks that address Black maternal health inequity;

(5) that Black women and birthing persons must be active participants in the policy decisions that impact their lives;

(6) that, in order to ensure access to safe and respectful maternal healthcare for Black women and birthing persons, Congress must pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021;

(7) that Black Maternal Health Week is an opportunity to—

(A) raise national awareness of the state of Black maternal health in the United States;

(B) amplify the voices of Black women and birthing persons, families, and communities;

(C) serve as a national platform for—

(i) entities led by Black women; and

(ii) efforts on maternal health; and

(D) enhance community organizing on Black maternal health; and

(8) the significance of April 11 through April 17, 2021, as "Black Maternal Health Week".

SENATE RESOLUTION 154—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN ON THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE JORDANIAN STATE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 154

Whereas the late King Abdullah bin Al Hussein arrived in Amman on March 2, 1921, and began working to establish a political system based on the Arab demand for independence, reaffirming the renaissance approach spearheaded by his father, Al Hussein bin Ali;

Whereas the Amirate of Trans-Jordan was established on April 11, 1921;

Whereas the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan achieved independence on May 25, 1946;

Whereas the United States recognized Jordan as an independent state in a White House announcement on January 31, 1949;

Whereas the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have maintained diplomatic relations since 1949, and during this 72-year partnership, the United States and Jordan have continued to develop a close relationship in security, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation;

Whereas the economic partnership between the United States and Jordan was further strengthened by the signing of the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement on October 24, 2000, which was fully implemented on January 1, 2010;

Whereas the United States is committed to Jordan's stability, prosperity, and security throughout the years, which has been reflected in 3 memoranda of understanding covering fiscal years 2010 through 2022, which demonstrate a strong, multi-year strategic relationship between the 2 countries;

Whereas Jordan continues to host 53 nationalities of refugees and is home to the second highest number of refugees per capita globally, with more than 1,300,000 Syrians, 660,000 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-registered refugees, and millions of Palestinian refugees; and

Whereas King Abdullah II has been a leading Arab voice in moderation and interfaith dialogue, by spearheading initiatives such as "A Common Word" and the 2004 "Amman Message"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the centennial of the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

(2) expresses its profound admiration and gratitude for the friendship of the Jordanian people, who continue to demonstrate great generosity for those in need;

(3) shares the hope of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Jordanian people for a more peaceful Middle East; and

(4) looks forward to our continued close cooperation with His Majesty King Abdullah II and Jordan on our shared priorities of security, economic development, and humanitarian issues.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1412. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1413. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 937, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1412. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) CARRYING A CONCEALED HANDGUN.—No State shall prohibit any individual who is fearing hate crime victimization from carrying a concealed handgun.

SA 1413. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN ADMISSION TO POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "No person"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) ADMISSION TO POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.—It shall be unlawful for an employee of a postsecondary institution referred to in section 606(2)(A) and receiving Federal financial assistance, to use for an applicant or refer an applicant to an informal or formal quota system based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin, during any step of the admissions process, to determine whether the applicant involved shall be admitted to the institution."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Uyeda, a detailee in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, appoints the following individuals to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Honorable MARK WARNER of Virginia (re-appointment), and the Honorable CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER WILLIAM FRANCIS "BILLY" EVANS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR HIS SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM ON THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON APRIL 2, 2021

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 152, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 152) honoring the memory of Officer William Francis "Billy" Evans of the United States Capitol Police for his selfless acts of heroism on the grounds of the United States Capitol on April 2, 2021.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 152) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission; further, that the postcloture time on the Gensler nomination be considered expired at 11:45 a.m.; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the Mallory nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 11:45 a.m. in relation to the Gensler and Mallory nominations and two rollcall votes at 3:30 p.m. on the Mallory nomination and cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 937, relating to COVID-19 hate crimes.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 152 as a further mark of respect for the memory of Officer William Francis "Billy" Evans of the United States Capitol Police.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 9036 AND 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT I. MILLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT K. BOGART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN R. ANDRUS
COL. THOMAS W. HARRELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ALFRED K. FLOWERS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GAHL E. CRAWFORD

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. THEODORE D. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. A. C. ROPER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ERIK C. PETERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PATRICK E. MATLOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. TALLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHANIE R. AHERN
COL. RICHARD T. APPELHANS
COL. JAMES B. BARTHOLOMEES
COL. LANCE K. CALVERT
COL. JOHN M. CUSHING
COL. MICHELLE K. DONAHUE
COL. PATRICK J. ELLIS
COL. THOMAS M. FELTEY
COL. LAWRENCE G. FERGUSON
COL. ANDREW C. GAINES
COL. DAVID W. GARDNER
COL. GAVIN J. GARDNER
COL. KIRK E. GIBBS
COL. WILLIAM R. GLASER
COL. RICHARD A. HARRISON
COL. JOSEPH E. HILBERT
COL. JASPER JEFFERS III
COL. JASON E. KELLY
COL. NIAVE F. KNELL
COL. ERIC D. LITTLE
COL. CHARLES T. LOMBARDO
COL. CONSTANTIN E. NICOLET
COL. RICHARD J. QUIRK IV
COL. CHRISTOPHER R. REID
COL. JOHN T. REIM, JR.
COL. LORI L. ROBINSON
COL. MONTE L. RONE
COL. PHILIP J. RYAN
COL. ERIC P. SHIRLEY
COL. FRANK J. STANCO, JR.
COL. ERIC S. STRONG
COL. BRANDON R. TEGTMEIER
COL. JEFFREY A. VANANTWERP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RONALD P. CLARK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 7037 AND 7064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH B. BERGER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEAN OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 7435:

To be brigadier general

COL. SHANE R. REEVES

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. SCOTT D. CONN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. KARL O. THOMAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHARLES B. COOPER II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. KELLY A. AESCHBACH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. STEPHEN T. KOEHLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JOHN V. FULLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT T. CLARK
REAR ADM. (LH) NANCY S. LACORE
REAR ADM. (LH) THEODORE P. LECLAIR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) EILEEN H. LAUBACHER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8084:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. DAVID G. BELLON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. EDWARD D. BANTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM M. JURNEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KEVIN M. HAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. GEORGE W. SMITH, JR.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE PERMANENT GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 716:

To be major general

GEN. JOHN W. RAYMOND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 716:

To be major general

MAJ. GEN. DEANNA M. BURT
MAJ. GEN. PHILIP A. GARRANT
MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL A. GUETLEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 716:

To be brigadier general

BRIG. GEN. DONALD J. COTHERN
BRIG. GEN. TROY L. ENDICOTT
BRIG. GEN. DAVID N. MILLER, JR.
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER S. POVAK
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN G. PURDY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN P. WHITNEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID N. MILLER, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

BRIAN P. ADAMS
ELIZABETH F. ALLEN
EDWARD G. BAHD
CHRISTOPHER M. FORD
TODD J. HANKS
JAMES T. HILL
ADAM S. KAZIN
TONY Y. KIM
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 D'JUAN GREGORY SAMPSON, OF FLORIDA
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 JAESON SCOTT, OF VIRGINIA
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 MARGARET M. SEYMOUR, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
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DARYN T. SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
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 JOHN PATRICK SPEHN, OF VIRGINIA
 TARINA JOAN SPEIDEL, OF FLORIDA
 PHILLIP SPILKER, OF VIRGINIA
 SARA R. SPINNLER, OF VIRGINIA
 KEVIN PATRICK SPRAGUE, OF VIRGINIA
 LAUREN SQUIRES, OF VIRGINIA
 SEAN PATRICK SRICHANKIJ, OF ARIZONA
 KATRICE CHANTE ST. ROSE, OF MARYLAND
 COLLIN MICHAEL STACY, OF VIRGINIA
 ALEXANDRA BETH STEIN, OF NEW YORK
 SAMANTHA KELLY STEPHENS, OF MARYLAND
 JOHN STEPHENSON, OF VIRGINIA
 BENJAMIN LEWIS STERN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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 CHRISTINA R. STIGLIANI, OF VIRGINIA
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 JASON TODD STURDIVANT, OF VIRGINIA
 LANA ALAINE SURFACE, OF INDIANA
 PATRICK COOPER SWIFT, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
 MAURY DEWITT SWIFT, OF VIRGINIA
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JONATHAN ROBERT MENNUTI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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WILLARD TENNEY SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
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HALE COLBURN VANKOUGHNETT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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JOANNE WAGNER, OF VIRGINIA
EVA ANNE WEIGOLD SCHULTZ, OF VIRGINIA
ALEISHA WOODWARD, OF VIRGINIA
MARTA COSTANZO YOUTH, OF MARYLAND

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MARK ROBERT EVANS, OF VIRGINIA
NAOMI C. FELLOWS, OF VIRGINIA
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JEFFREY D. HORWITZ, OF VIRGINIA
JOSEPH S. JACANIN, OF VIRGINIA
CHERYL NORMAN JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA
SENECA ELIZABETH JOHNSON, OF MARYLAND
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GREGORY C. MAY, OF VIRGINIA
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H. MARTIN MCDOWELL, OF VIRGINIA
JASON P. MEEKS, OF VIRGINIA
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PATRICK RAYMOND O'REILLY, OF FLORIDA
JENNIFER DAVIS PAGUADA, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT J. PALLADINO, OF VIRGINIA
YOLANDA ALICIA PARRA, OF FLORIDA
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JEFFREY KIMBALL RENEAU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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SONYA M. TSIROS, OF VIRGINIA
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TAMIR G. WASER, OF VIRGINIA
HANS WECHSEL, OF MONTANA
MATTHEW ALAN WERNER, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN V. WOHLAUER, OF WASHINGTON
JANINE YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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ROBERTO BERNARDO, OF FLORIDA
DAVID HOLMAN BODYCOAT, OF FLORIDA
JASON A. COE, OF FLORIDA
JOHN T. CONWAY, OF VIRGINIA
MAUREEN DANZOT, OF MARYLAND
KARL E. FIELD, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL J. FIFFICK, OF VIRGINIA
KEITH D. HANIGAN, OF VIRGINIA
MOHAMMAD A. KHAN, OF MARYLAND
ANTON G. KORT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JEREMY T. LARSON, OF VIRGINIA
RONALD GEORGE LAY, OF VIRGINIA
SETH JOSEPH LINDENFELD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THOMAS A. MAK, OF OHIO
FERNANDO J. MATUS, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC B. MILLSON, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES E. NICODEMUS, OF VIRGINIA
ROGER S. OWENS, OF TEXAS
RUTH E. PETZOLD, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHEN A. RICE, OF VIRGINIA
PETER M. RIVA, OF VIRGINIA
JEFFREY J. SCHROEDER, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHEN M. SEXTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELLEN K. TANNOR, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

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MAUREEN E. CORMACK, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL JOSEPH KRITENBRINK, OF VIRGINIA
ALAINA TEPLITZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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JEANNE FRANCES BAILEY, OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE J. ZANIN, OF CALIFORNIA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 13, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WENDY RUTH SHERMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

POLLY ELLEN TROTTEBERG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.